



Daily Report

East Asia

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Japan

'Tougher' Sanctions To Be Imposed on DPRK *OW231133 Tokyo KYODO in English 1124 GMT* 23 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 23 KYODO—Japan has decided to impose tougher sanctions against North Korea than it did in 1983 for Pyongyang's reported involvement in the destruction of a Korean Air [KAL] jetliner last November, according to the Foreign Ministry Saturday.

Ministry officials said the punitive measures will include limiting diplomats' contacts between the two countries in third nations, restriction of bilateral people-to-people exchanges and a ban on any special chartered flights between Japan and North Korea.

The measures will also include criticism of North Korean terrorist action in a stronger tone and Japan's support of an expected resolution by the United Nations Security Council condemning North Korea.

The officials said these measures are stricter than those Japan took against North Korea after the 1983 Rangoon terrorist bombing incident that killed key South Korean cabinet ministers.

The officials decided to take tougher sanctions as they became convinced that North Korean agents were indeed involved in the KAL plane destruction as a result of a visit to Seoul by Hitoshi Tanaka, director of the Northeast Asia Division at the Foreign Ministry, who conferred with South Korean officials.

They also pointed out that Kim Hyon-hui, 25, the self-confessed North Korean agent, and her male companion, Kim Sung-il, 70, who committed suicide, carried forged Japanese passports.

Japan will strictly check temporary entry of North Korean seamen to Japanese ports. Their entry has virtually been allowed almost without checks. A total of 160 North Korean vessels normally visit Japanese ports in a year.

Japan will not allow its officials to visit North Korea and refuse the entry of North Korean officials, the ministry officials said.

Measures will also call for cooperation with concerned nations and international organizations for a safe Seoul Olympics.

U.S. To Be Offered Higher Beef Quotas *OW230303 Tokyo KYODO in English 0145 GMT* 23 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 23 KYODO—The Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries will propose to the United States that Japan increase its total beef import quota by 13,000-23,000 tons a year over the next 8 years, beginning in fiscal 1988, ministry officials said Saturday.

Japan will put forward this proposal in negotiations with the U.S. which Japan hopes to start in the second week of February, the officials said.

However, it is uncertain whether the U.S. will accept the proposal as it is demanding that Japan abolish the quota system and liberalize beef imports, they said.

Japan's beef imports in fiscal 1987 are expected to total 214,00 tons.

Under the current beef import quota arrangement made with the U.S. 3 years ago, Japan pledged to increase annual beef import quotas worldwide by 9,000 tons a year in fiscal 1984-87.

The ministry drew up the proposal after its advisory council drafted a report that called for increasing Japan's annual beef imports to 320,000-400,000 tons by fiscal 1995.

The report by the advisory panel, the Livestock Industry Promotion Council, projects that beef demand in Japan will soar from 540,000 tons in fiscal 1985 to 800,000-880,000 tons in fiscal 1995 because of rapidly expanding beef consumption.

The report says the pace of growth in domestic beef production will not match expanding consumption, pointing out that domestic output will rise by only 90,000 tons from 390,000 tons to 480,000 tons during the 10-year period.

Further on Import Quotas

OW231241 Tokyo KYODO in English 0836 GMT
23 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 23 KYODO—Agriculture Ministry officials Saturday reacted strongly to reported U.S. moves to seek a phaseout of Japan's import controls on beef and oranges in about three years.

An official of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry, commenting on the moves, said Japan could not say it will liberalize beef and orange imports.

"All we can say is to increase import quotas" to protect domestic livestock farmers, the official said.

But other officials noted a change in the U.S. stance opting toward seeking a phaseout of import controls rather than outright complete decontrol.

The farm caucus of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party will hold a meeting Monday to discuss measures to deal with the liberalization of farm imports, including beef and oranges, LDP officials said.

The party is planning to decide on accepting in principle a ruling by a multilateral panel of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) urging Japan to liberalize imports of 10 disputed farm products, including processed cheese and noncitrus fruit juices.

But it is strongly opposed to lifting import controls on starch and powdered and skimmed milk.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan urged Japan to fully open its market to foreign beef and oranges at his meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita in Washington in December.

Budget Discussed as Diet Session Resumes

OW250329 Tokyo KYODO in English 0212 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 25 KYODO—The Diet, convened December 28 but in recess since then due to the year-end and new year season, resumed its session Monday morning with Crown Prince Akihito in attendance on behalf of Emperor Hirohito, who is still recuperating from an intestinal operation last year.

Political commentators said debate in the Diet session to end May 25 will first center on the 56.7 trillion yen state budget for fiscal 1988, starting April 1, which puts emphasis on defense and spending on overseas economic cooperation in line with Japan's international commitments.

Debate will also center on tax reforms the government of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita is pursuing, including the possible introduction of new indirect taxes, they said.

Import liberalization of farm produce pressed by the United States and other trading partners and problems related to foreign exchange rates are also expected to be taken up for Diet discussion.

The House of Representatives will open its plenary session at 1 p.m. and the House of Councillors at 3 p.m.

Takeshita and three of his cabinet ministers will deliver speeches in both houses.

Takeshita's administrative policy speech will be followed by speeches by Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno and Economic Planning Agency Director General Eiichi Nakao, Diet officials said.

Representatives of both ruling and opposition parties will question the government about these four speeches in the lower house Wednesday and Thursday and in the upper house Thursday and Friday, the officials added.

1988 Budget Submitted

OW250339 Tokyo KYODO in English 0225 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 25 KYODO—The government of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita presented the fiscal 1988 budget to the Diet (parliament) Monday, officials said.

The budget calls for spending 56,699.7 billion yen in general account expenditures, up 4.8 percent from the original budget for fiscal 1987.

Public works spending is put at 7,282.4 billion yen, up 19.7 percent; defense at 3,700.3 billion yen, up 5.2 percent; and foreign assistance at 682.2 billion yen, up 5.1 percent.

Japan's fiscal year starts April 1 and ends March 31.

Banks Plan To Cut Long-Term Prime Rate

OW250521 Tokyo KYODO in English 0454 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 25 KYODO—The Industrial Bank of Japan and other long-term credit banks formally decided to lower the long-term prime lending rate by 0.2 points to 5.5 percent per annum beginning on Thursday, bank officials said Monday.

The reduction in the long-term prime rate is the first in eight months. The rate had been hiked last August and October.

Banking industry sources said the move is aimed at lowering domestic interest rates in line with Japan's international pledge to maintain easy credit conditions to stimulate the economy—a measure that would presumably stimulate demand for imports of foreign products and reduce the nation's mammoth trade surplus.

Officials of the Bank of Japan, which exercises a degree of influence on the key rate management, indicated last week that they favor a cut in the long-term rate, the sources said.

The Finance Ministry urged the long-term credit banks, trust banks, and life insurance firms last week to reduce the rate in view of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's pledge to reduce domestic interest rates during his summit talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan in mid-January, they said.

Meanwhile, the banking industry reached an agreement to reduce housing loan rates beginning in April 1, if the long-term prime rate is kept below the 5.7 percent line until March 31, the officials said.

Interest rates on interest-bearing bank debentures will also be cut by 0.2 points, effective Thursday, in tandem with the cut in the long-term prime rate, they said.

North Korea

Foreign Ministry Statement on U.S. Sanctions SK250411 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0400 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 25 (KCNA)—As a retaliatory step against the U.S. "sanctions," we will refrain from meeting American diplomats on international arena and not permit the entry of those of American nationality into our country and will not have any negotiation with the United States over the issue of remains of the dead Americans from February 1, 1988 said a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in his statement published today.

Noting that in the "sanctions" announced on January 21 the United States advertised about some "terrorist state", "restrictions on travels" and about "cancellation of the lifting of the ban on contact", in its bid to insult and besmirch the sovereignty and dignity of the DPRK, the statement said:

This is a despicable attempt at providing justification for the "results of investigation" of the South Korean puppets which cause doubts among the world people, at encouraging their anti-DPRK smear campaign and misleading world public opinion.

It is now an open secret that the United States had already worked out a "scenario of warfare against North Korea" and had staged a mock exercise. The keynote of the scenario said a plane carrying the South Korean puppet foreign minister to Japan in May this year, just on the threshold of the Seoul Olympics, would be exploded in the air above the East Sea of Korea and, then, military reprisals be mounted against the DPRK on that account.

The KAL incident this time is nothing but enactment of the above U.S.-made script in the Middle East in November last year; the South Korean military dictators carried it out ahead of the set time and in a changed stage as a shocking method for the extension of their military rule.

Noting that as for the "terrorist state" mentioned by the United States, it is exactly the United States itself, not the DPRK, the statement brands the United States as world's no.1 terrorist country which engages itself in

state terrorism in all parts of the world, as the ringleader of aggression whose mode of existence is open armed intervention, sinister intrigues and subversive acts against other countries.

It said:

We, who are exposed to permanent aggression by the U.S. imperialists, are not frightened at all with their "sanctions."

Of course, we consider that for a peaceful settlement of the Korean issue, it is necessary to improve the DPRK-U.S. relations. However, we have no intention to beg of the United States a solution to this problem.

Indicting the United States to the world as the main culprit in international terrorism, a brigandish aggressor on Korea, we hold that the governments and people of all countries in the world should bring the United States to the international tribunal.

If the United States intends to benefit from its moves to do harm to the sovereignty and dignity of the DPRK and continually aggravate the situation on the Korean peninsula, it would face nothing but stern reprisals and destruction.

KCNA Cites 'Full Text'

SK250424 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0408 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 25 (KCNA)—The spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea made public a statement on January 25, denouncing the so-called U.S. "sanctions" against the DPRK.

Following is the full text of the statement:

The United States on January 21 announced "sanctions" against the DPRK, charging it with the KAL incident.

Talking about "terrorist state," "restrictions of visits" and "cancellation of the lifting of the ban on contacts," the U.S. attempted to insult and impair the sovereignty and dignity of the DPRK.

This is a despicable act to justify the South Korean puppets' "investigation results" doubted by the world people, encourage their anti-DPRK smear campaign and mislead world public opinion.

As we have already stated, the KAL incident has nothing to do with the DPRK, it is a drama staged by the South Korean puppets themselves and their "results of investigation" are full of lies, tricks and contradictions.

As soon as the puppets announced in Seoul the "results of investigation" the U.S. blew the flute in Washington in the same tune with the puppets. By doing so, the U.S. revealed by itself that it is the wirepuller of the KAL incident.

It is an open secret that the U.S. worked out a "scenario of warfare against North Korea" and already staged a mock exercise. The keynote of the scenario is that the plane carrying the South Korean puppet foreign minister on his visit to Japan will be exploded in the sky above the East Sea of Korea in May this year on the threshold of the Seoul Olympics and a military retaliation will be made against the DPRK under that pretext.

This scenario was staged by the South Korean military dictators in other theatre earlier than schedule as a shocking remedy for the extension of the military rule. Hence, the KAL incident in the Middle East in November last year.

Historically speaking, the U.S. has worked out a false incident and launched a campaign against the DPRK each time its colonial rule in South Korea faced a crisis.

In August 1973, when the fascist "yusin system" of South Korea was faced with strong protests of the masses and louder voices denouncing the "Two Koreas" policy were ringing out, they, hand in glove with the puppets, fabricated the "Kim Tae-chung kidnap case" and laid the blame for it at the door of the DPRK.

In August 1974, when the "yusin system" was shaking to its very bottom by massive actions of the South Korean students and people, they wirepulled the puppets, who faked up the "shooting of Pak Chong-hui" and announced it as a "criminal act of a North's operative."

It is widely known a fact that when their colonial rule was landed in the worst crisis by the Kwangju popular uprising in May 1980, they spread false rumours that the uprising was instigated by a "North's spy," and in November 1986, when the South Korean people's anti-U.S., anti-fascist struggle gained momentum, they invented a cock-and-bull story about "abnormal situation in the DPRK" ("shooting incident") with the aim of defusing their crisis.

The U.S. imperialists and the military fascist clique this time fabricated the jetliner incident and linked it with the DPRK. This was one more habitual fake-up meant to overpower the opposition parties and opposition democratic forces in the "presidential elections" on the pretext of "security" and extend the military dictatorship.

The United States, which should be held responsible for the KAL incident that claimed the lives of our fellow countrymen, as an accomplice in it, is now talking about "sanctions" against others like a thief crying "stop thief!" This is, indeed, a robber's logic reversing black into white.

Considering such shameless behavior of the United States a grave provocation designed to besmirch the international authority of the DPRK and push the situation on the Korean peninsula to an extreme pitch of strain, a brutal act of challenging human conscience and civilization, we vehemently denounce this in the name of the entire Korean people.

As for the "terrorist state" mentioned by the United States, it is exactly the United States itself, not the DPRK.

The United States is the world's No.1 terrorist state which engages itself in state terrorism in all parts of the world, the ringleader of aggression whose mode of existence is open armed intervention, sinister intrigues and subversive activities against other countries.

The United States was under fire by the world people for the fact that it stifled by force of arms newly-emerging Grenada and Dominica advancing along the road of independence and sovereignty, threatened anti-imperialist and independent Libya with undeclared attack of armed forces and made a surprise commando attack on the Iranian territory. How dares the United States brand others as "terrorist state"? How dares the United States clamour about "sanctions" against others while assassinating state leaders and overthrowing legitimate governments by means of plots in Central and South Americas, Asia and Africa and playing the most vicious and malicious "international gendarme"?

The United States has recorded the most disgraceful criminal history in our land of Korea.

U.S. imperialists who have invaded Korea for centuries occupied one half of our land for over 40 years, committed terrorism, destruction and murder and imposed immeasurable misfortunes and disasters upon our nation.

Enforcing a military rule from the very day of their occupation of South Korea, the U.S. imperialist aggressors murdered a large number of our patriots and people wherever they went including Cheju island, Taegu, Yosu and Suncheon.

Is it necessary to prove that the United States manipulated behind the scene the Kwangju massacre still fresh in the memory of the South Korean people as a rancour?

It is ridiculous, indeed, for the U.S. imperialists, the mastermind of aggression, terrorism and intrigue, to cry for the so-called "sanctions" against our republic, the victim.

None of us exposed to the permanent aggression by the U.S. imperialists is frightened by their hasty "sanctions".

We who have lived our own way have never benefited by the United States nor have anything to benefit by it.

Of course, we consider that the DPRK-U.S. relations should be improved for the peaceful settlement of the Korean question. But we have no intention to beg it of the United States.

When the United States did not exist in the world our nation lived well for thousands of years. Today, however, the existence of the aggressive United States becomes the root cause of the misfortunes and sufferings of our nation.

Our republic can do without the United States. Without the United States, our nation will live in peace in a reunified country.

It should be made clear between the DPRK and the United States that who should take sanctions against whom.

From the historical point of view and in view of the recent KAL incident, the DPRK has suffered due to the U.S. and has the right to take even severer steps than sanctions against the U.S.

Branding the U.S. before the world as the ringleader of international terrorism and brigandish aggressor on Korea, we suggest that the governments and peoples of all countries bring the U.S. to international tribunal.

As a countermeasure to the U.S. "sanctions," from February 1, 1988 we will not contact any U.S. diplomats in international arena, not permit the people with the U.S. nationality to enter our country and not have any negotiation concerning the remains of Americans.

Now that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets continuously claim that we might make a "provocation" with large armed forces to obstruct the Olympic games, no one can foretell what kind of incident they would invent again in the future.

We demand that the United States immediately stop such rash acts as aggravating the North-South confrontation and tension on the Korean peninsula and mocking the conscience of the world by resorting to foolish and despicable intrigues together with the South Korean puppets.

Before clamouring about "sanctions" against the DPRK, the U.S. must withdraw from South Korea, along with its nuclear weapons and aggression forces and take hands off Korea.

If the U.S. wants to get anything from its acts to impair the sovereignty and dignity of the DPRK and continuously aggravate the situation on the Korean peninsula, it will get nothing but stern retaliation and destruction.

The Japanese authorities who are acting imprudently in line with the U.S. must look straight at the situation, act with discretion and renounce their hostile policy toward the DPRK. They must clearly realize that the anti-DPRK, anti-chongryon campaign will bring nothing good to them.

We express the hope that the governments and peoples of all countries that cherish peace and justice will bitterly denounce the criminal acts of the U.S. and the South Korean puppets and continue to express firm solidarity with the Korean people in the just cause of peace and peaceful reunification of the country.

U.S. Accused of Conducting Smear Campaign
SK250527 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0516 GMT 25 Jan 88

["Why Does the United States Regard DPRK as a Thorn in the Flesh?"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 25 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists are continuously resorting to malicious slanders and abuses against our Republic, according to a foreign press report. A spokesman for the U.S. State Department at a so-called regular press conference in Washington on January 20 flung mud at our Republic again, talking about "instigation of terrorism".

Of course, none of the citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is irritated at this smear campaign. As a matter of fact, we are quite accustomed to slanders and vilification from the U.S. imperialists. How can they use only "terrorism" in launching a smear campaign against us? There are more vicious vituperations than this.

The vicious vituperations thrown by the U.S. imperialists over the past scores of years give us a legitimate pride in our cause, far from giving any irritation to us.

We legitimately questioned "Why does the United States regard the DPRK as a thorn in the flesh?", this is the point. Anti-imperialism and independence, this is an unswerving policy of our Republic and we do not make a slightest concession or compromise in the struggle against the imperialists. Upset by this, the U.S. imperialists have resorted to slander and vilification and intrigues against us ceaselessly over the past nearly half a century.

Finding no other means in the smear campaign, they are now chiming in with most inferior "ballad" of "terrorism" "invented" by the dirtiest and the lowest grade puppets such as Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u. This tells that the position of the U.S. imperialists are, indeed, sorry.

We cannot but say that it is ridiculous of the United States, the headquarters of terrorism, to talk about so-called "terrorism".

Reagan Allegedly 'Crazy' for War With North
SK230419 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0409 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 22 (KCNA)—U.S. President Reagan in his "Report on Security Strategy" for the new year to the U.S. Congress on January 21 asserted that the military strength of the North "exceeds by far" that of South Korea and that the North is engaged in "aggressive acts," according to a radio report from Seoul.

The fact that as pResident of a country, he made a preposterous statement only invites ridicule from the world public.

We wonder how he dares to say so without taking it into account that over 1,000 pieces of nuclear arms have been deployed in South Korea against the North which does not have a nuclear warhead. Should the President of such a big country as the United States be considered to be ignorant of arithmetic calculations? His incoherent words reversing black and white convince no one.

He absurdly charged the DPRK with being engaged in "aggressive acts," although, after putting forward a proposal for a massive phased arms reduction, the DPRK had set an example in reducing the armymen by 100,000 in a short period of the latter half of last year.

In the "report" Reagan let loose a tirade on the "necessity" of the U.S.-South Korea "alliance." In other words, he did so to "justify" the aggressive "military alliance" with the South Korean puppet clique and the occupation of South Korea by the U.S. imperialist aggression forces.

Such sophism brings into bolder relief the criminal color of Reagan who is crazy about provoking a war against the North.

Daily Denounces U.S. Imperialist Policy
SK231050 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1002 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 23 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today runs a (?signed) article entitled "imperialist policy of aggression is root cause of growing international tension."

The article says:

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song said in his new year address for 1988:

"The imperialists' policy of aggression and plunder is (?still) the root cause of threat to world peace and of growing international tension."

The U.S. imperialists' policy of nuclear arms buildup and war is the root cause of growing international tension.

No sooner had the United States signed a treaty (?of) partial nuclear disarmament with the Soviet Union than it took a series of (?moves to violate) nuclear arms race. The [word indistinct] war mongers appropriated 3.9 billion dollars of military expenditure this year for the "Star Wars program" and staged in top secrecy a ground launching test of lasers weapon. They carried out launching tests of the inter-continental ballistic missiles "MX" and "Trident 2", the cruise missile "Tomahawk" and the medium-range missile "Pershing-2" one after another and started the production of binary chemical weapons.

The U.S. imperialists' aggressive moves and intervention in major strategic vantage-points are another cause of (?international) tension.

It is the U.S. imperialists that are aggravating the situation in the Gulf area, obstructing peace process in Central America and [words indistinct] and the South African racists who are keying up the tensions in the Middle East and Southern Africa.

It is they that are aggravating the situation on the Korean peninsula.

Despite our proposal for multinational disarmament negotiations and our unilateral reduction of armed forces, Reagan and other high-ranking officials of the U.S. are overtly declaring that they will not reduce the U.S. forces in South Korea. This is a flagrant challenge to peace in Korea.

Another cause of growing international tension is the imperialists' exploitation and plunder of developing countries.

Due to their harsh exploitation and plunder, "the rich are ever getting richer and the poor poorer" the world over, which destabilizes the international situation.

In continued pursuit of the "policy of strength" the U.S. imperialists are desperately working to divide and smash the anti-imperialist forces with a view to achieving their ambition for world supremacy.

All the peaceloving people should unite and fight resolutely to defend world peace and security from the imperialists' policy of aggression and war.

TASS Says U.S. 'Mastermind of Terrorism'
SK231104 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1028 GMT 23 Jan 88

["TASS Flails U.S. Plot"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Moscow January 21 (KCNA)—TASS January 21 published an article entitled "United States Is Root Cause of State Terrorist Policy and its Executor" condemning the U.S. imperialists' shameless anti-DPRK smear campaign.

A spokesman for the State Department of the United States on January 20 appeared at a press conference and slandered the DPRK, crying that it instigated "terrorism". Denouncing this, TASS said:

As UPI stressed, the U.S. imperialists' plot aims at further isolating the DPRK economically and politically. As a pretext, they use the false story of the Seoul puppet regime that the DPRK was related with the KAL jetliner reported missing in the sky above Thailand in November last year.

Obviously, the U.S. step against the DPRK proceeded from its purpose to increase pressure on this country in Asia which is pursuing an independent policy.

The shameless act of the United States against the DPRK is a plot to duck the responsibility for the act committed by itself.

Pointing in detail to the fact that the U.S. imperialists are continuing export of counterrevolution, while escalating an undeclared war against Nicaragua and other progressive countries and increasing support to the counterrevolutionaries, TASS stressed that the United States is not in a position to blame others for terrorist acts. Citing instances of the U.S. intelligence organ's direct or indirect international terrorism, TASS stressed that the U.S. imperialists are, indeed, the mastermind of state terrorism.

Daily Urges South, U.S. Participate in Talks
SK240701 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2140 GMT 23 Jan 88

[NODONG SINMUN 24 January special article: "The United States and the Persons in Authority of South Korea Should Come Out to the Venue of Disarmament Negotiations"]

[Text] It has been 6 months since the government of our Republic put forward a proposal to hold multinational disarmament negotiations for a massive, phased arms reduction. Characteristic of the trend of the situation on the Korean Peninsula during this period are our consistent and sincere efforts for peace in Korea and its peaceful reunification, while the United States and the South Korean authorities have tenaciously schemed to hinder peaceful resolution of the Korean question, running counter to the demands of the times and the aspirations of the popular masses.

In his New Year's address, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught: Also urgently required for the country's reunification is to eliminate the state of military confrontation between the North and the South and to alleviate tension.

The new epochal disarmament proposal put forward by the government of our Republic on 23 July last year is a very timely, fair, and aboveboard proposal to remove the

chief cause of military conflict and guarantee durable peace in our country. As soon as it was announced, our reasonable and realistic new disarmament proposal aroused great repercussions among all the Korean people and among the people of the world and won active support and sympathy from them.

Since it put forth the new proposal for phased disarmament, which reflects the desires and demands of our people and the people of the world who unanimously want the peaceful resolution of the Korean question, the government of the Republic has taken the active step of unilaterally cutting 100,000 KPA soldiers and has successfully implemented that step for approximately 4 months. This was not only another clear expression of our invariable stand toward peace in Korea and its peaceful reunification, but was also a vivid model that shows our consistent promise to realize disarmament on the Korean Peninsula and alleviate tension there with actual deeds, not merely words.

In addition, proceeding from the sheer desire to eliminate the state of military confrontation and to alleviate tension between the North and the South, repeatedly urging the United States and the South Korean authorities to affirmatively respond to our proposal for disarmament negotiations at the earliest possible date, we have made active efforts to arrange contact and dialogue with them. However, the United States and the South Korean authorities have not only ranted from the outset, reversing black and white, but have also continuously turned away our proposal for disarmament negotiations, using all manner of pleas, and, thus, have tried to evade contact and dialogue with us at any cost.

When we put forward the proposal for disarmament negotiations, the persons in authority of the United States schemed to wash their hands of disarmament negotiations, talking about direct North-South talks and the like, and perpetrated the extremely clumsy and base trick of preposterously and groundlessly fabricating the falsity of our so-called military superiority and viciously slandering and defaming us.

Keeping step with such maneuvers by their U.S. bosses, the South Korean authorities came up with a proposal to hold talks between the foreign ministers of the North and the South to discuss such problems as concluding a nonaggression agreement, simultaneous entry into the United Nations, and cross-recognition, while preposterously talking about resolution of what they call pending issues and the resumption of existing dialogue.

This was essentially an extremely impure act designed to utilize dialogue in perpetuating the division of the country and the nation, rather than to discuss the basic problems that arise in alleviating tension on the Korean peninsula and expediting the country's peaceful reunification. However, proceeding from the consistent stand to resolve all difficulties that lie along the road of

national reunification through dialogue and negotiations, we have expressed our principled stand that talks to discuss disarmament should be participated in not only by the foreign ministers of the North and the South, but also by the secretary of state of the United States, those directly responsible for alleviating tension on the Korean peninsula. We have clarified that the disarmament problem, which is directly related to the United States, should be discussed at talks in which the foreign ministers of the North and the South and the U.S. secretary of state participate and that other internal problems within the nation related to the country's reunification should be resolved by our nation itself through North-South dialogue.

We have also proposed that, in an effort to guarantee success in such talks, vice minister-level preliminary talks be held at Panmunjam and clarified that if there is any inconvenience for the United States and the South Korean authorities in holding preliminary talks, we consider it possible to have two-channel bilateral preliminary talks—talks between us and the United States and between us and South Korea.

Such a proposal by us was not only a most reasonable and just proposal in light of the character of the Korean question and the demands of the situation that prevails on the Korean Peninsula, but was also a broad-minded and magnanimous proposal that has fully taken into consideration the situation of the United States and the South Korean authorities.

Failure to realize dialogue among us, the United States, and the South Korean authorities since the advancement of our proposal for disarmament negotiations has been entirely attributable to the unjust attitude of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets. Turning away our proposal for disarmament negotiations, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets have continued the intolerable criminal act of maintaining the occupation by the U.S. forces of South Korea, bolstering the U.S. forces and the puppet army's strength, and, thus, accelerating preparations for war.

U.S. President Reagan has openly clamored that reducing the U.S. forces stationed in South Korea runs counter to the national interests of the United States. This vividly lays bare to the world the real intent of the U.S. imperialists to continuously occupy South Korea and use it as a military base and a forward nuclear base to attack the northern half of the Republic and other socialist countries in Asia.

In particular, under the pretext of support and cooperation for successfully hosting of the Olympics, the U.S. imperialists have accelerated maneuvers for rapid dispatch of U.S. reinforcement troops to South Korea in case of an emergency; for additional stockpiling of war materials, including new types of bombs; for long-term deployment of the U.S. Pacific Fleet in the waters of South Korea; and for expansion of the scale of the

"Team Spirit" joint military exercise. Along with this, the puppets' commotions of anticommunist and anti-Republic confrontation have become unprecedentedly unscrupulous and, thus, a war posture has been further strengthened in South Korea today.

All the facts show that although they are talking about detente and peace in words, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are, in fact, not interested in disarmament and the alleviation of tension. The words and deeds of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are a challenge to our peace proposal and initiative and run counter to the basic trend of our times, which seek peace and prosperity.

The overall international situation today has suggested an indication of gradual alleviation. The voices of the peace-loving people of the world who call for a peaceful resolution of the Korean question rise higher with each passing day. The urgent desire of all the brethren for national reunification has become irresistible. Resolving the Korean question has become a task of the times that can no longer be delayed.

In his New Year's address, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song again elucidated the consistent stand of the government of the Republic toward the Korean question and clarified the need to arrange a North-South joint conference and to settle relations between Korea and the United States.

The proposal for holding a North-South joint conference is a patriotic and nation-loving national salvation proposal to improve the abnormal North-South relations at any cost through joint efforts between the North and the South, the practical parties concerned with resolution of the reunification question, and to open a new aspect for dialogue, peace, and peaceful reunification. Resolving Korean-U.S. relations is an urgent demand that arises in basically resolving the country's reunification.

The persons in authority of South Korea should stop the treacherous and treasonous policy of following the United States and the policy of anticommunist and anti-Republic confrontation, should seek national reconciliation and unity, should alleviate tension, and should advance along the road of achieving the country's peaceful reunification.

The United States is precisely the ringleader who has divided our country by illegally occupying South Korea and the basic obstacle that blocks reunification of our country. It is because of the U.S. imperialists that the Korean question exists as an issue. It is also because of the U.S. imperialists that the Korean question has become so complicated as seen today and that the danger of war has increased on the Korean peninsula.

The United States is the party concerned directly responsible for alleviating tension, eliminating military confrontation, and preserving peace in our country. The

United States should liquidate, at the earliest possible date, the unfriendly history of the past by concluding a peace agreement with us and should do work useful to achieving peace in our country and its peaceful reunification.

The attitude of the United States and the South Korean authorities toward our peace initiative and reunification proposal is a touchstone that determines the stand of detente or tension, the stand of peace or war, and the stand of reunification or division. If the U.S. imperialists continue to turn away our fair, aboveboard, and timely proposal for disarmament negotiations and other peace proposals, they will not be able to escape greater curses and further condemnation.

Says Talks Will Avert War

SK231044 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1033 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 23 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a signed article entitled "the factor that may trigger off a war and bring about national calamities must be removed."

The article reads in part:

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song said in his new year address for 1988:

"Even though it is difficult to reunify the country right now, we must seek a way to a peaceful life, instead of pitting large armies against each other and retaining the factor that may trigger off a war and bring about national calamities."

On the Korean peninsula huge armed forces of the North and the South are now standing in acute confrontation with each other with the military demarcation line in between.

The puppet army nearly one million strong and paramilitary forces 10 million strong as well as more than 40,000 U.S. troops are ready for action at all times and more than 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons of various kinds and means of their delivery deployed in South Korea. [sentence as received] This state of confrontation between the North and the South is a basic factor in misunderstanding and distrust, a permanent factor that may trigger off armed conflict between the two sides any moment in our country still in an unstable state of ceasefire.

Even if they have differing ideologies and social systems, the North and the South should refrain from fighting each other. It is only the Korean nation who would suffer calamities from a war and only outside forces who would benefit from it.

Arranging disarmament talks at an early date and carrying disarmament into effect are the only correct way for the Korean nation to preserve peace on the Korean peninsula, avoiding confrontation, free from the threat of nuclear holocaust.

When such a wide-range negotiation as a North-South joint conference which will give fullest play to the will of all the parties, groupings and people of all social standings in the North and South of Korea has been arranged, will it be possible to find effective ways of realizing disarmament and preventing a war that may bring about national calamities.

All the parties, groupings and people of all social standings in South Korea should positively respond to the DPRK's new proposal for the convocation of a North-South joint conference.

South 'Security' Measures Heighten Tensions

SK230501 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0451 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 23 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comments on the fact that on January 21 the South Korean puppets held a so-called "central meeting for measures against spies", at which they, crying about someone's "surprise attack" and "provocations", set this year as a "year of allout efforts to establish security posture" and openly proclaimed confrontation against us.

In a signed commentary the daily says:

Such an act as crying about fictitious "threat" and "provocation" by someone and kicking off an anti-communist confrontation racket from the outset of the year can be committed only by such heinous traitors, bellicose elements and splittist maniacs as the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u group which is interested only in wrecking national reconciliation and unity, heightening tensions and, further, igniting a war.

The "security" on the lips of the puppets is slogan of fascism and war and the anti-communist smear campaign is a habitual tactics they resort to each time their crisis grows serious.

By setting this year as a "year of allout efforts to establish security posture" the puppets betrayed their dark intention to intensify the crackdown on students and people on the pretext of "security" and made a declaration that they would incite North-South confrontation, heighten tensions and further step up preparations for a criminal war against the North, in league with the U.S. imperialists.

The Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u group is seeking a way out of the ever worsening political crisis in brandishing bayonets against the democratic forces and adventurous military provocations against us.

Our people are heightening vigilance against the anti-DPRK smear campaign and war gamble of the puppets.

The Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u group had better stop rash act.

Paper Notes Arms Buildup Prior to Olympics
SK240840 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0835 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 24 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppet police headquarters decided a few days ago to organize a "full-time military and police joint Olympic guard" 60,000 strong in May. This reveals their criminal attempt to build up the repressive forces under the pretext of Olympics, says MINJU CHOSON Sunday in a signed commentary.

The commentary goes on:

The puppets, who had extensively reinforced the repressive forces allegedly for Olympics, took together with the U.S. imperialists new military steps for rapid manoeuvrability of the U.S. forces to South Korea, establishment of the air warning system, extensive stockpiling of new-type ammunition, permanent deployment of the U.S. Pacific Fleet in the coastal waters of South Korea and expansion of the scope of the "Team Spirit" joint military rehearsal this year.

They decided to create this force allegedly to cope with somebody's "provocation" and "terrorism." But, this is a fascist machine to suppress the righteous action of students and people by force of arms under the pretext of Olympics and extend the military dictatorship.

They intend to intensify the suppression of people and hasten war preparations by abusing the Olympics for a sinister political purpose. Their criminal acts will meet with stronger resistance of the people at home and abroad.

Cuban Decision To Boycott Olympics Hailed
SK250639 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
1150 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Talk by reporter Kim Song-mun: "A Clear Expression of Solid Support For and Solidarity With Our People's Cause of the Fatherland's Reunification"]

[Text] As has been reported, on 15 January, Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Council of State and of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, sent a letter to the International Olympic Committee [IOC] President Samaranch in connection with the decision of the Republic of Cuba not to participate in the 24th Olympiad.

In the letter, Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, saying that he and the Cuban people had exerted much effort toward making the 24th Olympics successfully cohosted by the North and the South of Korea, stated that he conclusively agrees with the DPRK stand toward the 1988 Olympics. He stressed that the Cuban Olympic Committee and the Cuban Government had decided not to apply for participation in the Olympics.

He said that he is advising the IOC president that, for Cuba, the people's moral sense of obligation is more important than the success of the Olympics and the gold medals that can be won at the Olympics.

This step the Cuban party, government, and Olympic committee have taken not to participate in the 24th Olympics is indeed just, in view of the basic ideas of the Olympics to seek friendship, harmony, and peace among countries and people through sports and in consideration of eliminating distrust between the North and the South of our divided nation, achieving national unity, and creating a favorable condition for peace in our country and its independent and peaceful reunification.

As is known by all the people, amid circumstances in which the South Korean puppets, who scheme to exploit the Olympics for their dirty political objectives to perpetuate the division of the country and to realize their long-term office, and the U.S. imperialists, who support them, are further intensifying their maneuvers, if the Olympics are held in only a part of our country, this will create a great obstacle to achieving the harmony and unity of our nation and, moreover, will constitute an act that runs against the ideals of the Olympics.

Proceeding precisely from this stand, the Cuban party, government, and people have actively supported the cohosting of the Olympics and have maintained an unchanging firm stand after declaring that they would not participate in the Olympics if the cohosting of the Olympics is not realized.

Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, in his speech at a mass rally during his visit to our country in March 1986, declared that Korea had made preparations for cohosting the Olympics. On that occasion, he exposed the U.S. imperialists' maneuvers and said that all efforts would be made to defend the Korean people's legitimate right to jointly host the Olympics in an atmosphere of national unity and prestige.

Even after this, Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, at his meetings with delegations of our country on visits to Cuba and on other occasions, continued to stress that he supports the Korean people's struggle to cohost the Olympics.

This step the Cuban party, government, and Olympic committee have taken not to participate in the 24th Olympics is also an expression of the invariable stand of the Cuban party and government which have always

struggled for justice and peace, as well as for consolidation and development of the Olympic movement. It is a step reflective of the unanimous will of all the Cuban people.

Thus, presently, events are being held across Cuba to support the step. Approximately 18,000 citizens in Havana have staged demonstrations to support the Cuban decision not to participate in the 24th Olympics to be held in Seoul. They have shouted slogans supporting the Cuban decision not to participate in the Olympics which the South Korean puppets are trying to host single-handedly, with the dirty political objective of creating two Koreas.

At a rally held in a plaza after the demonstrations, when Cuban Olympic Committee President Manuel Gonzalez asked whether they support the government's decision not to participate in the 24th Olympics, the demonstrators answered in unison that they support it. On 18 January, Cuban athletes held a general meeting and sent a letter to Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz. In the letter, they stressed that they firmly support the decision of the Cuban Government and Olympic Committee that Cuba would not participate in the 1988 Olympics as long as the present situation continues. They stressed that the efforts Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz has exerted toward cohosting the Olympics and correct settlement of this question encourage the Cuban athletes to continue to prepare to win victories, no matter where games are held around the world.

They stressed that they would intensify efforts to nourish technology and strength and establish sound and flawless athletics, thus giving endless honor to the fatherland.

They stressed that Reagan can never make them abandon their principles.

The step of the Cuban party, government, and people not to participate in the 24th Olympics, if cohosting of the Olympics is not realized, is a serious blow to the divisionists, and is another great encouragement for our people who have made every effort to achieve peace in the country and its peaceful reunification by overcoming all difficulties and obstacles.

It is an expression of the principle of internationalism maintained by the Cuban party, government, and people, who value revolutionary duty, that the Cuban party and government have firmly supported the proposal for cohosting the Olympics and continue to maintain the resolute stand that they will not participate in the Olympics if cohosting is not realized.

We highly assess the correct stand the Cuban party and government have adopted in actively supporting the proposal for cohosting the Olympics.

Our people take pride in having the Cuban people, who firmly maintain the revolutionary principle and defend the western guardpost of socialism in the face of the U.S. imperialists, as intimate friends and comrades in arms.

Our people wish the Cuban people even greater success in their struggle to accelerate socialist construction and defend the gains of the revolution under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba headed by respected Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz.

Paper Views U.S.-Japan Military Ties
SK240838 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0826 GMT 24 Jan 88

["What Does New Military Tieup Aim At?"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 24 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comes out with a signed commentary on the new military tieup between the United States and Japan.

At recent talks between the U.S. defense secretary and the Japanese Defense Agency director in Washington a "unanimity of views" was reached on matters of accelerating "joint development of conventional weapons" through the "strengthened technical collaboration" between the United States and Japan in the future and an agreement was made on the joint study of the problems of "quick deployment of U.S. forces and heavy arms including tanks" in the Japanese territory in the "event of contingency" and of "providing for U.S. Army equipment in Japan in advance," the commentary notes, and says:

This is a new military move further endangering peace and security in northeast Asia, a proof of the U.S.-Japan military tieup being strengthened at a more dangerous phase.

Through such military cooperation and tieup the U.S. imperialists are trying to turn the Japanese territory further into a nuclear forward base, a launching base of the U.S. forces and round off military preparations for forestalling strikes in case of "emergency" on the one hand and to further reinforce the Japanese militarist forces and effectively use them as a "shock brigade" for aggression on Asia on the other.

The Japanese reactionaries are scheming to increase their military strength with the backing of the U.S. imperialists and thereby gratify the wild ambition for overseas aggrandizement in return for leaving the territory of Japan lock, stock and barrel to the latter as their forward base.

It is nobody's secret that the new U.S.-Japan military cooperation and tieup are meant to cope with a war of aggression on Korea in the future. It is a widely known fact that the "study of emergency in the Far East," a

U.S.-Japan joint operational plan against Korea, has already been completed, the Japanese territory is being turned into a nuclear forward base, beachhead of the U.S. forces for another war of aggression on Korea, and a U.S.-Japan-South Korea three-way military alliance is virtually active.

Hence, the U.S. imperialists intend to turn the territory of Japan further into a forward base for aggression on Korea and, with it as a foothold, to guarantee quick and massive deployment of the U.S. forces on the Korean front for their war of aggression.

The military collusion and tieup between the U.S. imperialists and the Japanese reactionaries based on aggressive U.S.-Japan "security system" are growing all the more serious after the emergence of the new cabinet in Japan.

The U.S. imperialists and the Japanese reactionaries must look foursquare at the trend of the time toward disarmament, detente and peace and not go against it.

KCNA Says South Yields to U.S. Trade Pressure
SK231054 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1020 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Pyongyang January 23 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppet clique decided to accept the U.S. demand for the opening of South Korean markets to U.S. cigarettes, insurance and beef and notify the United States of this, according to a report.

This means that the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u group completely yielded to the U.S. imperialists' pressure to open markets.

The U.S. imperialists who seek a way out of their serious economic crisis in the intensified extortion of colonies demanded the South Korean puppets to open all markets to U.S. cigarettes and insurance and even to beef in early December last year.

The peasants who earn a living by stockbreeding waged almost every day massive protest meetings and demonstrations, branding the U.S. pressure to open South Korean markets to beef and the criminal scheme of the puppet clique to yield to it as a criminal one threatening the right of peasants to existence.

Upset at this, the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u group dispatched the puppet deputy prime minister to the United States at the outset of the new year, entreating it to "understand" its difficult position. But he only returned to South Korea with the impetuous threat of the United States that it would take retaliatory steps in case markets are not open immediately.

This means that after all, the South Korean puppets completely yielded to the U.S. masters' pressure to open markets from the beginning.

They employed a delaying tactics with a poor excuse to lull the resistance of the people. All facts once again clearly show that the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u group is a group of traitors, people's dirty enemy, who do not hesitate to barter away the interests of the country and the nation for lining the pockets of the U.S. masters and for their personal wealth, glory and authority and for the "security" of their power.

South Korea

Amnesty Expected for Plane Bombing Suspect
OW231031 Tokyo KYODO in English 1021 GMT
23 Jan 88

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 23 KYODO—Kim Hyon-hui, the key suspect in the bombing of a South Korean jetliner last November will be granted amnesty and freed after a public trial later this year, informed sources said Saturday.

The sources said the timing of her amnesty will be decided by the government after taking into consideration the sentiment of the South Korean people and reactions from North Korea.

They said she will probably be released after the Summer Olympics opening in Seoul September 17.

Kim confessed that she was a North Korean agent and planted a time bomb aboard the Korean Air jetliner together with another agent who committed suicide while under questioning in Abu Dhabi [as received].

The plane is believed to have exploded near or over Burma November 29 and 115 people aboard died.

The sources said Kim faces capital punishment but the government is inclined to give her amnesty as a valuable living evidence of the incident.

The trial, which is expected to start this spring, will take a month or two if Kim pleads guilty, the sources said.

Japanese Official Meets Kim
OW221219 Tokyo KYODO in English 1202 GMT 22 Jan

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 22 KYODO—A Senior Japanese official held an hour-long interview with Kim Hyon-Hui, who South Korea says destroyed a Korean Air (KAL) plane with 115 people on board last November, at the Agency for National Security Planning Friday, according to diplomatic sources.

The sources said Kim, 25, admitted that she and her male companion, Kim Sung-Il, 70, had planted a bomb aboard the plane en route from Baghdad to Seoul.

The Japanese official, Hitoshi Tanaka, director of the Northeast Asia Division at the Foreign Ministry, also questioned her about how the two Kims obtained forged Japanese passports, the sources said. No details were given.

Tanaka will return to Tokyo later Friday to brief the government on his meeting with Kim, a suspected North Korean agent.

The Tokyo government is expected to announce what retaliatory actions it may take against North Korea on Tuesday.

The Agency for National Security Planning announced last Friday that the two Kims planted the bomb aboard the plane under the instruction of Kim Chong-Il, son of North Korean president Kim Il-song.

The plane with 115 people on board en route from Baghdad to Seoul disappeared near the Thai-Burmese border November 29.

Diplomatic sources said without elaboration that Tanaka also questioned the woman about a Japanese woman who the agency said trained her for two years from April 1981.

The agency said last Friday the Japanese, kidnapped by North Korean agents, identified only by the name Une and said to be in her early 30s, gave Kim lessons in the Japanese language, customs and etiquette in Pyongyang so that she could pose as Japanese.

The sources said Japanese police will send a group of investigators to Seoul next week for an interview with Kim during which they will show her pictures of three Japanese women suspected of having been kidnapped by North Korean agents.

Security Council Meeting Requested on Bombing
SK240145 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
24 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] The government is seeking the cooperation of nations friendly to South Korea to blame North Korea for its November destruction of a Korean airliner at the UN Security Council.

An official said yesterday on condition of anonymity, "Close contacts with friendly countries are underway through our diplomatic missions abroad to convene the Security Council for a condemnation of North Korea."

He said that the support from nine of 15 member countries of the council is necessary to convene the council session for debate on Pyongyang's terrorist act.

Currently, he revealed, the United States, Britain, France, West Germany, Italy and Argentina back Korea's position, whereas Algeria, Yugoslavia and Zambia oppose it.

Senegal, Brazil and Nepal take a neutral stance, he said.

South and North Korea are the observer countries at the U.N. Security Council.

He said, "If the council is convened, there will be a debate on the North Korean terrorist act but the adoption of a condemnatory resolution will be difficult because of the likely veto of the Soviet Union."

He went on, "The debate on the KAL issue at the Security Council is significant in that we can bring it to the attention of the world opinion again."

More Nations Express Condemnation
SK240148 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
24 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] Jordan, Liberia, Australia and Ecuador have condemned the Nov. 29 North Korean bombing of a Korean Air passenger jet over seas off Burma.

The Jordan government was reported as saying that it deplors all forms of terrorism and voices regret over the destruction of the Korean jet causing the death of 115 innocent people.

The Liberian government denounced the North Korean bombing of KAL Flight 858 as "barbaric and unprovoked act of terrorism" and unequivocally condemned its perpetrators.

"Such an act gravely threatened to disrupt the peace and stability, not only of the Korean peninsula, but of the world at large," it said.

The Australian government said that if the North Korean bombing of the civilian aircraft proved to be part of its campaign to sabotage the Seoul Olympics, it would seriously undermine North Korea's international reputation.

Australia has in the past strongly denounced state terrorism by North Korea, notably the Rangoon bombing in October 1983, the Australian government said.

The Ecuador government said it oppose all forms of violence and called for international organizations and countries of the world to take measures to prevent such acts of terrorism.

Chon Urges Prevention of North Terrorism
SK230241 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
23 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] President Chon Tu-hwan yesterday branded the North Korean bombing of a Korean Air jetliner with 115 persons on board as an "act of barbarity, unparalleled in the human history."

He called for greater efforts to fundamentally prevent the recurrence of a similar atrocity.

Speaking to a "rally for the promotion of national reconciliation and democratic unification" at a gymnasium in the Olympic Park in southern Seoul, Chon

declared that he would do his best to chastise the North Korean Communists' brutality in a most effective way during the remainder of his tenure.

The President then said, "Effective and positive schemes must be mapped out to fundamentally prevent the recurrence of such a national tragedy."

The rally, attended by about 3,000 citizens, was held in observance of the sixth anniversary of the declaration of President Chon's comprehensive formula for "democratic unification through national reconciliation."

President Chon said he was confident that the Korean people would be able to see the peaceful unification toward the end of this century in view of their ardent desire for unification and rapid buildup of the national strength in the south.

"People's fervent aspiration for unification and brilliant national development will surely be a driving force to stimulate the construction of a democratic, unified state on this peninsula," the President said.

President Chon then called upon the people to push forward for the forging of a new era toward peaceful unification and national harmony on the firm foundation of economic development, clearing away the distrust and confrontation of the past era.

Chon went on that the country would be able to lay a firm foundation for the construction of a democratic, unified state on this peninsula "when we successfully complete the two major national undertaking—peaceful change of government and the September Summer Olympics."

U.S. Investigation of Complaint Protested
SK230728 Seoul YONHAP in English
0720 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Seoul Jan. 23 (YONHAP)—South Korea will demand that the U.S. Administration refrain from initiating a formal investigation into the complaint filed by U.S. cigarette exporters against Korea, trade officials here said Saturday.

Describing the complaint as unwarranted in light of its market-opening program already proposed to the U.S. Government, the officials emphasized that the Korean Government's program was as extensive as it could be under current domestic law.

The officials said that under the market-opening program conveyed to Yeutter on Friday, the Korean Government accepted most of the U.S. demands by promising to lower the price of imported cigarettes to 820 won beginning in February, and further to 700 won early next year. (one U.S. dollar is worth about 785 won.)

The officials said the U.S. exporters have demanded that Korea lower the cigarette price to 700 won beginning in July, six months ahead of the Korean Government's proposal.

The U.S. Cigarette Exporters Association filed a trade complaint on Friday with U.S. trade representative Clayton Yeutter insisting that they have been frozen out of Korea's market because of Korea's allegedly unfair and discriminatory trade practices.

Under Section 301 of the 1974 U.S. Trade Act, the U.S. trade representative has 45 days to determine whether to initiate a formal investigation.

A report from the Washington office of the Korea Foreign Trade Association, however, disclosed that the U.S. trade representative is sympathetic with the Korean position which regards the complaint as excessive.

U.S. Exporters File Lawsuit
SK231310 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
23 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] Regarding as unjust the lawsuit brought against Korea by the U.S. Cigarette Export Association on the charge of violating Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act, in view of the plan to expand the cigarette market that Korea has already presented to the U.S. side, the government plans to request that the U.S. Administration not invoke Section 301.

On 23 January a trade authority stressed that our side's plan to additionally open the foreign cigarette market, presented to U.S. trade representative Yeutter on 22 January, is the level showing the maximum concession within the category of the current laws and regulations. He revealed that our side decided to ask the U.S. trade representative that Section 301 not be invoked.

The authorities concerned stated that our side notified the U.S. side of our policy to price imported cigarettes at 820 won per pack in domestic markets, effective February, and to lower this price to 700 won at the beginning of next year, thus accepting almost all of the U.S. side's requests. However, U.S. business circles demanded that the price be lowered to 700 won effective 1 July and, discontented about the 6-month gap, brought a lawsuit. The authorities concerned pointed out that such a lawsuit is not just.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that the U.S. trade representative sympathizes with the Korean side's position that the U.S. business circle's lawsuit under Section 301 "is excessive" and thinks that there will be no particular problems in opening the insurance market in Korea. However, when the Korean side's proposal on beef is considered unacceptable, there is a great possibility that a lawsuit may be brought under Section 301, following the cigarette suit, or under the GATT.

Such a reaction by the U.S. side was reported by the Washington office of the Korean Trade Association on 23 January.

New Market-Opening Proposals To Be Offered
SK250753 Seoul YONHAP in English
0739 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 25 (YONHAP)—Faced with a cool reaction from the United States to its market-opening proposals presented last week, South Korea plans to produce a new set of offers in search of an accord before the U.S. takes a retaliatory trade action.

Sources in the South Korean Government who spoke on condition of anonymity, however, gave no details of the new offers.

The sources said the Korean Government officials, despite the discord with the U.S. officials and exporters of beef and cigarettes, still remain hopeful of drawing agreements from them before they take action.

Officials of South Korea's Economic Planning Board, Finance Ministry, and Agriculture and Fisheries Ministry have decided to continue talks with the U.S. trade officials as well as exporters of the disputed items, the sources said.

The United States did not rebuff Korea's offer to restrict the domestic business groups with which the U.S. insurance firms can seek joint ventures to those smaller than 15th biggest one in terms of annual sales amount.

Prospects are slim, however, that South Korea's efforts toward an early agreement will pay off observers point out that the United States is pressing hard on Korea to lower the domestic prices of imported cigarettes to the 700-won level at a stroke from the current 1,300 won for a pack. One U.S. dollar is worth about 785 won.

They said the United States is even ignoring the monopoly system of South Korea, pressing for free sales of foreign cigarettes at supermarkets and vending machines.

The prospect remains also uncertain in respect to negotiations for the resumption of U.S. beef imports because the United States is demanding South Korea to allow sales of U.S. quality beef not only at the tourist hotels but also at other tourist restaurants, they added.

The United States has originally demanded that South Korea resume imports of U.S. beef for use at tourist hotels only.

About two weeks after the two sides failed to iron out their differences in a series of talks in Washington, South Korea presented last Thursday to the United States its market-opening programs which it said were the most extensive as possible under its domestic laws.

The Washington talks were prompted by an official warning of the United States to take retaliatory trade actions unless South Korea meet its demands to lower the domestic price of imported cigarettes, to lift an import ban on U.S. beef, and to allow U.S. insurance companies to set up joint ventures with big businesses in South Korea.

The United States, however, have reportedly reacted coolly to the programs demanding further acceleration of South Korea's market-opening schedules especially for the U.S. beef and cigarettes.

Moreover, U.S. cigarette exporters filed the following day a complaint with the U.S. trade representative accusing South Korea of unfair trade practices, asking South Korea to lower the domestic price to 700 won by July.

In its market-opening proposals, South Korea had offered to lower the foreign cigarette price from the present 1,300 won to 820 won by next month and further down to 750 won by the end of this year.

Under the Section 301 of the 1974 U.S. Trade Act, the U.S. trade representative has 45 days to decide whether to initiate a formal investigation.

The U.S. Government is supposed to impose retaliatory tariffs on imports from the accused country if it fails to reach an agreement with the complainants within a year after the ruling.

Meanwhile, the South Korean Government is working on measures to prevent concentration of wealth to its big businesses which will be joint venture partners of the U.S. insurance companies, according to the sources.

U.S. Reportedly 'Cool' to Plan
SK230159 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
23 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] Washington (YONHAP)—The United States has reacted coolly to Korea's market-opening proposal, which focuses on American beef, cigarettes and insurance.

The U.S. response came when Kim Kyong-won, Korean ambassador to the U.S., delivered Seoul's position on the hot trade issues during his 45-minute talks with U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter here Thursday evening.

In the Washington meeting, Korea reportedly notified the U.S. side of its intention to resume imports of high-quality American beef for use at tourist hotels and top-notch restaurants after the general election in March or April.

As for insurance, it also informed the U.S. of its decision to exclude only Korea's 15 largest businesses from a list of firms allowed to participate in life insurance joint-ventures with American underwriters.

This reflects a major retreat from Korea's sustained position that the top 30 business conglomerates will be banned from becoming partners in Korea-U.S. life insurance firms.

On cigarettes, the U.S. side was told that Korea will lower the retail price of imported U.S.-brand cigarettes from 1,300 won per pack to around 820 won next month, and further to 750 won by the end of the year, after revising the pertinent laws.

In response, the United States reportedly expressed its strong dissatisfaction with Korea's timetable for the resumption of imports of American beef.

Yeutter was quoted as having said, "Korea has deliberately put off the timing for importing American beef on the pretext of the parliamentary election."

He demanded that Korea allow full market access for American beef of all kinds.

On cigarettes and insurance, the U.S. representative responded that Korea's proposals are inching closer to the U.S. request.

However, there is still a distance from the original U.S. demand for more concessions on those matters, he reportedly said.

In conclusion, Korean and U.S. officials failed to reach a compromise on the trade issues at the meeting.

Trade source said that they will resume the trade talks, probably next week in Washington, for a final resolution of the trade problems.

As it stands now, the United States is threatening to invoke Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act if the Korean government continues to deny American beef, cigarettes and insurance market access.

The most likely victims of the possible U.S. retaliation will be Korean-made autos and electronics products, both being among the best-selling items in the United States.

They will probably face higher import tariffs, which would virtually mean an embargo.

U.S. Congress To Resume Beef Import Pressure
SK230201 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
23 Jan 88 p 6

[Text] The U.S. Congress will likely reaffirm its earlier resolution urging Korea to resume the imports of American beef at a House-Senate joint conference, slated to open Jan. 25.

Ministry of Trade and Industry officials said yesterday that the congressional move will be an additional pressure for Korea to resume the beef imports, which have been stopped since May 1985.

The joint conference will open to hammer out the difference between the House and the Senate in acting on the so-called "Omnibus Trade Bill", designed to retaliate against countries with huge trade surpluses with the United States.

The U.S. administration is also moving to invoke the Section 301 of the Trade Act if Korea does not comply with U.S. request to immediately open the beef market or bring the case to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Korea has already notified the United States of its intention to resume the beef imports after its general election scheduled to be held in March or April.

Under the controversial Section 301, the U.S. president shall take all appropriate and feasible action within his power to respond to any act, policy, or practice of a foreign country to obtain the elimination of unfair trade practices by a foreign country.

Given this, trade officials said, the possible U.S. retaliation measure will likely include the imposition of higher tariff rates on the imports of Korean autos and electronics products.

The annual beef consumption by Korea is estimated at 153,000 tons.

The Korea government is also negotiating with U.S. side on the retail prices of imported U.S.-brand cigarettes.

The U.S. administration argues that the retail prices of American cigarettes be lowered drastically from current 1,300 won per pack by cutting back on the varying kinds of surcharge or taxes.

It is also threatening to put Section 301 in action if Korean side does not meet the U.S. request.

The U.S. pressure for Korea's market opening has been stepped up since Korea's trade surplus with America has continued to grow.

In 1987, Korea enjoyed a trade surplus of \$9.2 billion with the United States.

Loss of U.S. GSP Favors Seen as 'Inevitable'
SK240209 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
24 Jan 88 p 6

[Text] The government has decided to concede to the possible removal of U.S. generalized system of preferences (GSP) favors on imports of Korean products, it was learned yesterday.

The United States is certain to scrap its GSP benefits on Korean products, effective July this year or Jan. 1 next year at the latest.

Because of its widening trade deficit with Korea, the United States is set to withdraw its trade concessions on imports of Korean products ahead of schedule. It was generally expected that the United States would lift GSP favors against Korea sometime after next year.

Government sources said yesterday that the U.S. Congress will discuss the removal of GSP benefits on Korean products in joint conferences between the House and Senate, which are scheduled to start Monday.

They added that the U.S. Congress is determined to remove Korea, Hong Kong, the Republic of China and Singapore from the beneficiaries of U.S. GSP favors in consideration of their mounting trade surpluses with the United States.

Besides the four Asian countries, which the United States refers to as "newly industrializing countries" or "Asian trading tigers," Brazil is also expected to get stripped of U.S. GSP favors.

The government sources predicted that the U.S. Congress would decide to scrap trade benefits against Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Republic of China by next month.

Despite the U.S. move to withdraw its GSP favors on imports of Korean products, the government is groaning under the absence of effective steps to thwart U.S. trade restrictions.

Instead, the government regards the removal of U.S. GSP benefits on Korean products as inevitable in consideration of the accumulating trade surplus with the United States.

Ranking government officials clearly acknowledged that the government has already judged that any kind of diplomatic negotiations with the United States would be useless for the change of the U.S. position on the removal of GSP benefits.

They only said that what the government can do now is wait for the decision of the U.S. Congress in the joint House-Senate conferences, which will mainly hammer out their differences in the protectionist Omnibus Trade bill.

As the European Community has already removed its GSP favors on imports of Korean products this year, the end of U.S. GSP benefits will deal a serious blow to the nation's exports.

The removal of U.S. trade benefits is expected to further vex the nerves of the government, as the United States is threatening to resort to Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act

against imports of Korean products over the three major current issues—wider opening of the Korean cigarette and insurance markets, and the imports of beef.

According to government statistics, the nation's exports to the United States in 1986 under U.S. GSP benefits amounted to some \$2.2 billion, affecting about 1,100 export items.

In case the United States removes its GSP favors, the nation is expected to pay an additional \$100 million with the imposition of an average 5 percent tariff on 1,100 items, whose exports will decrease by nearly 10 percent.

Business experts said that the lift of U.S. GSP favors would deal a severe blow to exports of electric and electronic products to the United States.

In the meantime, the nation enjoyed some \$10 million trade surplus with the United States last year.

Customs on Industrial Products To Be Reduced
SK230137 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
23 Jan 88 p 6

[Text] The government plans to sharply reduce customs duties on imports of industrial products from the average 16.9 percent at present to between 8 and 9 percent over the period from 1990 until 1994, it was learned yesterday.

As a first step, the government will revise the current classification of customs duties across the board this year.

The reduction of customs duties is basically designed to defuse criticism levelled by the United States, the European Community (EC) and other advanced countries at Korea's trade surplus.

Its other aim is to further buttress the basis of support for stable consumer and wholesale prices as well as to correct what foreign countries call the excessive governmental protection of domestic industries.

Government sources said yesterday that customs duties averaging 20 percent, levied on 62 percent of all imported goods would be lowered to 10 percent.

They also disclosed that the maximum 100 percent in tariff rates would be reduced to 50 percent for other than industrial products and to even 30 percent for some industrial products.

They said that with the revision of the classification of customs duties, the government would gradually lower tariff rates according to a five-year plan from 1990 until 1994.

It is reported that the government is determined to classify the present uniform structure determining imposition of customs duties into five categories in accordance with the status of the imported goods.

The five-way rates which the government is considering imposing on imports of raw materials and finished products vary from 0 percent, 5 percent, 10 percent, and 15 percent to 20 percent.

Specifically, raw materials which are not produced by domestic business will be free of customs duties and those which domestic business can produce will be subject to an average 5 percent rate.

Imports of finished products whose quality is superior to those manufactured by local industries will be levied with an average 10 percent tariff rate, while the majority of finished products and intermediary goods will be imposed with a 15 percent rate.

The importation of products which contributes to the development of local makers of the same products will be subject to an average 20 to 25 percent in customs duties.

However, the government will impose tariff rates averaging 30 percent on those products whose import should be continuously controlled.

In the meantime, the government plans to adjust tariff rates imposed on agricultural products in accordance with the development of the Uruguay Round which seeks to include services in the international merchandise trade.

The government position on agricultural products is likely to set off a new round of trade confrontation between Korea and the United States as the U.S. has demanded the liberalization of their imports and lower tariff rates for them.

The average tariff rate imposed on imports of industrial products in the mid'80s was 22.6 percent. The figure was consequently lowered to 20.9 percent last year and 16.9 percent this year.

In the case of Japan, the comparative rate was 7.2 percent in 1984.

Insurance Head Sees U.S. Ventures as Harmful
SK230133 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
23 Jan 88 p 6

[By staff reporter Chae Hui-muk: "Joint Ventures With U.S. Insurance Companies to Deal Big Blow to Local Firms"]

[Excerpts] At any cost, the government should never authorize joint ventures between "large-sized" domestic businesses and U.S. life insurance companies in bilateral trade negotiations, said Yi Kang-hwan, president of the Daehan Kyoyuk Insurance Co. (DKI).

President Yi said, "If authorized, the joint ventures will hit a critical blow to the domestic life insurance industry."

Most domestic business conglomerates have nationwide business networks, which would be easily converted to insurance sales footing in case they were allowed to jointly invest here with U.S. insurance companies, he explained.

Yi pinpointed that U.S. life insurance companies intend to make inroads into the local life insurance market, utilizing the global network of Korean business groups.

He conceded any establishment of branch offices or full-scale investment here of U.S. life insurance for that reason.

The 52-year-old president lashed out at domestic conglomerates and U.S. insurance companies, saying, "Insurance business is not a hen laying golden eggs but a public business to promote social welfare and to contribute to the economic development of the nation." [passage omitted]

"This year, we seek quality rather than quantity in business. As a result, I emphasize the management of existing policyholders but not expansion of business volume in a strong pressure of the United States to open domestic insurance market," said the top manager who majored in law at Seoul International University in 1958. [passage omitted]

Joint Body for Opposition Unity Forms
SK230213 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
23 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] A group of junior lawmakers and some dissident figures yesterday agreed to form a joint body to promote opposition integration in the face of parliamentary elections.

Rep. Yi Chol, spokesman for the five maverick lawmakers, announced after a meeting with the dissidents at a down-town hotel that the joint body will be launched next Monday.

The lawmakers and the dissident figures, however, showed differences over how to realize opposition unification to include the Reunification Democratic Party and the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD).

The junior lawmakers called for the unification of the RDP and the PPD to be followed by participation of the dissident forces, while the dissident groups insisted on the creation of another opposition party prior to the projected opposition integration.

They agreed that the dissident figures will make positive efforts for the unification of the dissident forces being divided into several groups, thus to facilitate the opposition integration with the major parties.

The five lawmakers are Pak Chan-chong, Cho Sun-hyong, Hong Sa-tok, Yi Chol and Chang Ki-uk.

They are demanding that Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung retreat from active opposition leadership to pave the way for the integration of their parties.

Rep. Chang, who is about to leave the PPD, joined the younger lawmakers' group. Rep. Ho Kgong-ku was absent from the meeting yesterday.

The dissident figures include Che Chong-ku and Yu In-tae, who are moving to form a new opposition party.

DJP Said To Change Position on Election Date
SK240112 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
24 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] The ruling Democratic Justice Party, withholding its longstanding position to hold the general elections next month, conducted a reshuffle of key posts yesterday, appointing Sim Myong-po as secretary general.

Rep. Sim, 52, was chief secretary to party president No Tae-u. He succeeded Chong Sok-mo, a third-term lawmaker with a long police career.

Yu Hung-su was named deputy secretary general and Yu Kyong-hyon spokesman, replacing Kim Tae-ho and Yi Min-sop, respectively.

The shakeup was announced after a top-level consultation between the Democratic Justice Party and the administration in which they were learned to have discussed the date of the election.

Informed sources said a virtual decision was made to hold the election after the inauguration of No Tae-u as president on Feb. 25.

The president-elect has earlier laid that the change of the party hierarchy would be made after the election which he then planned to hold before his inauguration.

After the meeting attended by No and presidential secretary general Kim Yun-hwan, among others, DJP chairman Chae Mun-sik said, "Albeit undesirable, possibility is growing for holding of the elections after February."

The DJP's formal stand has been to hold the elections within the tenure of President Chon Tu-hwan to grant him a role in the nomination of parliamentary candidates.

However, there have been mounting calls within the party for elections to be held later for No to establish full authority.

Apparently under the Chongwadae influence, the government party was moving to railroad its bill at the on-going parliamentary session, ending Friday, to facilitate February elections, daring grave damage to its image.

But the DJP leaders, acknowledging the understream thinking of partisans, persuaded the administration in yesterday's meeting not to risk the adverse impact on the coming elections, according to informed party sources.

A greater percentage of No's staff has asserted that concrete measures to heal the scars of the bloody Kwangju incident of May 1980 and an amnesty for political prisoners should precede the elections, calling for elections in late March or early April.

The measures, being mapped out by the Democratization and Reconciliation Council, No's provisional advisory body, will be announced immediately before the inauguration of the new government in late February.

The new secretary general will be chief negotiator in the revision of the election law with the Reunification Democratic Party instead of Rep. Chong.

Elected twice from the Yongwol-Pyeongchang-Chongson district, Kangwon-do, he had served as spokesman for over two years with his long journalist career.

Opposition and DJP Differs on Constituencies
SK240132 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
24 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] The three opposition parties yesterday showed conflicting responses to the reported decision of the ruling Democratic Justice Party to seek a small constituency system for the upcoming parliamentary elections.

The eventual adoption of the small district electoral formula, under which one lawmaker is elected in each constituency, is certain to accelerate the ongoing moves for opposition integration which seems the inevitable choice if the opposition is to survive.

The Party for Peace and Democracy welcomed the ruling party decision, made in a meeting of top leaders of the DJP, participated in by president-elect No Tae-u and chairman Chae Mun-sik yesterday.

The major opposition Reunification Democratic Party also expressed willingness to accept the small district system, despite its official proposal of a medium-size district each electing two to four lawmakers depending upon its population.

RDP secretary general Pak Chong-yol told reporters, "The DJP's wayward gesture with regard to the rearrangement of parliamentary districts is designed to aggravate the opposition split and to gloss over the serious internal problems of the ruling camp.

"If the DJP really intended to adopt the small district system, our party would be willing to accept it," the RDP secretary general said in a resolute manner.

"In that case," Rep. Pak went on, "The electoral districts should be zoned in such a way that the populations of constituencies in urban and rural regions does not differ. The population of each district should not exceed 150,000."

The RDP secretary general, however, feared that the small district system will have serious side-effects as it is most likely to result in cutthroat competition among the lawmaker candidates.

"The ruling camp should take responsibility for such serious side-effects after the elections as in the presidential election," Rep. Pak claimed.

RDP spokesman Kim Tae-yong, on the other hand, said that the party would stick to the medium-size district in the course of inter-party negotiations on the major political issue.

The RDP, which had favored the small district system, abruptly changed its position in the face of objections from some incumbent law makers of the party.

"We don't think that the DJP will push ahead with the small district system to the last," the RDP spokesman said. He pointed that the small district system will have strong objections from incumbent lawmakers of the DJP.

The ruling camp's temporary decision to adopt the small constituency system is a great source of joy and encouragement to the leadership of the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD].

If the last presidential election is any indication of the voter trend, Kim Tae-chung believes that the PPD will produce at least 70 lawmakers in the forthcoming general elections. Kim won the first place in the 70 out of the 245 polling stations, as compared with Kim Yong-sam's 35.

Kim Tae-chung believes that his party is sure of becoming the largest opposition party, outbeating his political rival's Reunification Democratic Party.

Kim confided in private that the opposition party can not beat the ruling camp in Korea where all bureaucratic and governmental powers are mobilized in the election and where there is no local autonomy system guaranteeing opposition supervision.

But the adoption of the small constituency system is not necessarily encouraging sign among all PPD lawmakers.

In general, PPD lawmakers from the Cholla provinces welcomed the small constituency system as the system will assure them of overwhelming victories in their home towns as seen in the Dec. 16 presidential elections.

If the inter-party agreement produces an electoral system electing more than one lawmaker in each constituency, the PPD plans to post two candidates in each constituency in Kim Tae-chung's political powerbase of the Cholla region.

However, there is prevailing concern in the party that the PPD may not field a single lawmaker in the Kyongsang province under the small constituency system.

If the worry should become a reality in the election, the PPD will be labelled an ignominious "regional party," not a national party.

New DJP Official Comments

SK240127 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
24 Jan 88 p 2

[From the "Out and About" column: "Change of Position"]

[Text] New DJP, secretary-general Sim Myong-po yesterday hinted that the ruling party will finally adopt single-member district format for the coming general elections.

"To live up to the popular expectation and to give a firm ground for the president-elect to steer the next government with confidence, I think the adoption of the one lawmaker-per-district system is inevitable," Sim said.

The secretary-general's remarks supported popular opinion that the ruling party will ultimately change its position from a plural-member district system to one which elects only one lawmaker from a regional constituency.

But party chairman Chae Mun-sik denied the change of position, saying that the party will pursue a format under which one to three candidates will be elected from a regional district.

"We will maintain our original plural-member district format in negotiations with rival parties," Chae said.

Despite the party chairman's remarks, the prevailing expectation is that the party will take up a single-member district system to live up to the popular wish.

PPD Presses for Local Autonomy System

SK230145 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
23 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] The Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] reiterated yesterday that the local autonomy system should be implemented nationwide during the first half of this year.

The call was made as the ruling camp and the Home Affairs Ministry were reported to be planning a partial implementation of the local autonomy system, deferring the direct election of mayors of special cities and provincial governors until after the Seoul Olympics.

PPD spokesman An Tong-son said the implementation of the local autonomy system is the basic fabric of democracy and recalled that President-elect No Tae-u pledged to implement the system on a full nation-wide scale during his presidential campaign.

Through full implementation of the local autonomy system, the upcoming Seoul Olympics should be hosted by a Seoul mayor who will be elected through a popular vote, the spokesman said.

The local autonomy system must be put into force from the lowest administrative unit (dong) to the highest administrative zone (province) without exception during the first half of this year, he asserted.

Biographical Profiles of New DJP Officials
SK240113 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
24 Jan 88 p 1

[Unattributed article: "Profiles of New DJP Officers"]

[Text] Sim Myong-po, Secretary-general [subhead]

Rep. Sim Myong-po, newly appointed secretary-general of the ruling Democratic Justice Party, said he will endeavor to promote unity and harmony within the party.

The journalist-turned-politician said he will take measures to enhance the morale of party secretariat members, such as in terms of personnel management.

Sim also remarked he will make utmost efforts to realize policies which President-elect No Tae-u pledged during his campaign.

"It will be my major duty to support the party president so that he can conduct national affairs, smoothly," the two-term lawmaker said.

Sim has assisted President-elect No since the party head took the helm of the ruling DJP, as spokesman and his chief secretary.

Asked about the interparty negotiations on the Assembly election law, Sim said his party will try to find a negotiated settlement of the law, through compromise under parliamentary principles.

Sim, 53, entered politics when he worked as a promoter for the founding of the ruling party in 1980. He then was a managing editor of the HANGUK ILBO, a Seoul daily.

Born in Yongwol, the eastern province of Kangwon-do, Sim climbed the political ladder smoothly, largely as a result of his sociable personality and sharpness in judgment.

He served President-elect No Tae-u as chief secretary during his successful presidential election campaign which DJP officials said was evidence of No's deep trust in Sim.

In 1983, he was named to the DJP's Central Executive Council and chairman of the party's chapter in Kangwon-do.

He had been the party's chief spokesman till he became No's chief secretary just before the presidential election campaign began.

Yu Hung-su, Vice secretary-general [subhead]

A native of Hapchon in Kyongsangnam-do, Yu graduated from the Seoul National University College of Law in 1962.

He served as director general of the National Police Headquarters and governor of Chungchongnam-ho. In 1984, he was appointed senior presidential secretary for administrative affairs.

Three years later, he was named chief secretary to the DJP president. A year ago, the 51-year-old DJP lawmaker was elected commissioner of the Korea Pro Football Organization in its inaugural meeting.

In 1984, Yu translated into Korean "The Reagan Machine," an analysis of the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, written by Yashunori Abe, a Japanese journalist who was Washington correspondent for the Sankei Shimbun.

Yu Kyong-hyon, Spokesman [subhead]

Born in Sunchon, Chollanam-do in 1939, the journalist-turned politician has served as deputy floor leader and chairman of the National Assembly Economy-Science Committee.

Upon graduating from the Seoul National University College of Law in 1963, Yu worked till 1978 for the vernacular TONG-A ILBO as a political reporter.

In 1979, Yu was elected a lawmaker on a ticket of the now defunct Democratic Republican Party and served as deputy spokesman for the party.

The three-term lawmaker was elected a DJP lawmaker in 1981 from the constituency of Sunchon-Kure-Sungju in Chollanam-do and served as vice chairman of the DJP's Policy Deliberation Committee.

Cambodia

'Communique' on Hun Sen-Sihanouk Meeting

BK251405 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 1300 GMT 25 Jan 88

["Communique on the second meeting between Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Samdech Sihanouk"—date not given]

[Text] The second meeting between Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the PRK, and Samdech Sihanouk, which proceeded for 2 days from 20 to 21 January, 1988, has ended.

During this second round of talks, Comrade Hun Sen made some suggestions concerning the calendar for the withdrawal of the Vietnamese Army volunteers from Cambodia, insisting that the withdrawal should be linked with the cessation of all external interference, the cessation of arms supply to the Khmer reactionaries, the end to the use of Thai territory against the PRK, and the elimination of all possibility for the genocidal regime's return to Cambodia.

During the discussion, the two sides raised the question of setting up a coalition government. However, Samdech Sihanouk suggested that the PRK be dissolved. Regarding this issue, Comrade Hun Sen firmly upheld the stance of the PRK. The two sides agreed to keep this issue for discussion at future meetings. At the same time, they also discussed questions concerning the future political regime, the principles of independence, neutrality, and nonalignment, the international conference, and the international control.

The two sides agreed to hold the third meeting in Pyongyang in April 1988, the fourth meeting in Paris, and the fifth meeting in New Delhi in the search for an appropriate political solution to the Cambodian problem.

This second round of talks, which proceeded in an atmosphere of joy and cordiality, saw the position of each side clearly defined.

Hun Sen's News Conference on Sihanouk Talks

BK231229 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1120 GMT
23 Jan 88

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 23—Chairman of the Kampuchean Council of Ministers Hun Sen held in Saint-Germain-en-Laye on the outskirts of Paris Thursday a press conference on his second meeting with Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Dealing with the results of the two-day talks, Chairman Hun Sen said:

"My second meeting with Prince Sihanouk has concluded. There is no communique this time but this does not mean that no progress has been made. Instead we have made big headway. We discussed concrete questions, many of which could not be settled within a few hours. We shall continue to discuss the remaining questions.

In the past two days we discussed five questions:

- 1/ Time-table for the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea;
- 2/ The establishment of a coalition government;
- 3/ The future political system in Kampuchea;
- 4/ The principles for an independent, neutral and non-aligned Kampuchea; and
- 5/ International guarantee and control.

Of the above five questions, we have reached agreement on the 3rd, 4th and 5th which are essential issues, contributing to the settlement of the other pending questions namely:

A/ the time-table for the troop withdrawal: At the meeting yesterday I suggested it would be effected in 31 [number as received] months. This morning I reduced the time to 24 months after an agreement has been reached between the Kampuchean sides. You may ask why it would take so long. But we are concerned about the danger posed by the Khmer Rouge, so we are for the elimination of the Pol Pot military forces because only then can there be a real guarantee for the Kampuchean people after the Vietnamese withdrawal.

On the time-table of the troop withdrawal there needs more discussion.

B/ on a coalition government, it can be said that the two sides agreed on the need to set up a coalition government and to have different political parties in Kampuchea. Our viewpoint is that the coalition government is to be appointed after the general election in which all political parties will be allowed to take part.

The general election will take place under international supervision.

The side of Prince Sihanouk, for its part, holds that the coalition government is to be set up before the general election. For our part, we hold that to demand the "dismantlement" of the People's Republic of Kampuchea is not fair and reasonable. Here there are two basic problems. Firstly so long as the Khmer Rouge is still poised for a return to power, to "dismantle" the People's Republic of Kampuchea will create opportunity for them to come back, to say nothing of the accompanying social unrest. Secondly, for us to "dismantle" the P.R.K. is not different from committing suicide, of letting others ride roughshod over us. In such conditions, how can we talk of a political solution with [word indistinct] mutual concession from both sides. The People's Republic of Kampuchea now is controlling all the Kampuchean territory. As for the Khmer Rouge, they have not been

able to gain an inch of land on our territory. Now if we dismantle our administration and accept a coalition administration, the other side will seize on the opportunity to bring the whole of its military and political organization back to Phnom Penh. We cannot accept a situation in which we who have everything will have to relinquish everything.

We have put forward a fair and reasonable formula, that is to retain the status quo of the forces of all sides, and the armed forces of each side will stay where they are, to set up an electoral committee to organize the general election under international supervision. The National Assembly will draft a constitution of the Kampuchean state.

For our part, we shall continue considering Prince Sihanouk's idea about a coalition government. If the other two parties refuse to take part, we shall have to see what we should do for a provisional coalition government. This issue will also be brought up for discussion in Pyongyang.

Asked about the Khmer Rouge, Chairman Hun Sen said: "We are prepared to accept the political role of the Khmer Rouge, excluding the ringleaders of the Pol Pot clique. We are for "dismantling" not "abolishing" its military organization.

"To eliminate the Khmer Rouge force, there must be combined measures of all who have fears about the Pol Pot clique, and the combined forces of the people and the international community who abhor the crimes of the Pol Pot clique. It is regrettable that we have been the only one, with Vietnam's assistance to fight against the Pol Pot clique, while those who have expressed fears about Pol Pot have done nothing. If they really do not want their return, they should cooperate with us. The ironical thing is that they hate Pol Pot and they also hate us and condemn our fight against him".

Report on AFP Interview

AU241802 Paris AFP in English 1656 GMT
24 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Orgeval, France, Jan 24 (AFP)—Former Cambodia ruler Prince Norodom Sihanouk failed to offer any concessions in peace talks this week in France, Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government said Sunday.

The 36-year-old leader in an interview here, reiterated his demand that the Khmer Rouge military forces led by Pol Pot be eliminated as an essential of any political solution to the Cambodian deadlock.

Vietnam has said it will withdraw from Cambodia by 1990, whether or not Cambodia's factions reached a political solution, but Mr Hun Sen said this would be a "unilateral" withdrawal, for which there would be "no need for outside observers."

If there were a political settlement and an earlier withdrawal—Mr Hun Sen offered a pullout in 24 months in the talks at Saint-Germain-en-Laye, ending Friday—the resistance would have to make concessions.

The withdrawal would take place in three phases, a third at a time, he said Sunday.

One can't buy goods without giving the seller money," he said, adding that Prince Sihanouk's side "were giving nothing so far," and had "offered no pledges on the elimination" of Khmer Rouge military forces.

Vietnam invaded Cambodia in December 1978 to oust Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge.

"I know that Prince Sihanouk can't alone combat the Khmer Rouge," who form the mainstay of the prince's resistance coalition, with their 30,000 fighters heavily armed by China, Mr Hun Sen said.

"It would be enough for him to be neutral, but if he acts with us, so much the better," he added.

He also said that if "either China or Thailand stopped supporting" the Khmer Rouge, "that would be enough."

"The fact that (Thai Army commander-in-chief) Chaovalit (Yongchaiyut) has said that the Cambodian problem is an internal one is positive."

If Thailand stopped the movement of arms and supplies through its territory to the Khmer Rouge, "China couldn't do anything," Mr Hun Sen said.

Beijing has consistently ruled out withdrawing its support from the guerrillas.

Mr Hun Sen reaffirmed his refusal to dismantle his present government structure before elections were held, as Prince Sihanouk demands.

"If we agree to that what are we left with," he said.

He said Prince Sihanouk had not answered his concerns about "what laws would be used to ensure social order," if the People's Republic of Kampuchea were dismantled.

Mr Hun Sen said he had therefore not yet considered as a concrete possibility the Prince's suggestion that their two factions form a bipartite provisional government. But he said he was studying the proposal.

Mr Hun Sen said he was optimistic about the future talks. The dialogue, which started at Fere-en-Tardenois, northeast of here, last month is due to continue in April in North Korea, with further meetings planned in France and India. [passage omitted]

Hun Sen, Sihanouk To Meet in Pyongyang
BK251205 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1104 GMT
25 Jan 88

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 25—Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, announced at the end of his second meeting with Prince Sihanouk in Paris on January 21st that the two sides had agreed to meet again in Pyongyang in April this year. The fourth meeting is set for the end of this year in Paris and the fifth will be held in New Delhi, reports VNA.

In his first meeting with Chairman Hun Sen in Paris last December, Prince Sihanouk had asked his interlocutor to convey his best regards to Pham Van Dong of Vietnam and Souphanouvong and Phoumi Vongvichit of Laos. Pham Van Dong has asked Chairman Hun Sen to convey a message of thanks to Prince Sihanouk. Pham Van Dong said in his letter that he "always treasures the friendship and mutual respect between us" and that he "has warmly welcomed and will warmly welcome any agreement to be reached between Samdech and His Excellency Hun Sen."

Souphanouvong and Phoumi Vongvichit have also asked Hun Sen to convey their thanks and high regards to Prince Sihanouk.

Chea Soth Meets With Visiting Journalists
BK231258 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1135 GMT
23 Jan 88

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 23—Chea Soth, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, received yesterday evening international journalists' delegations which had arrived in Phnom Penh earlier the same day on a visit to Kampuchea.

The delegations which had attended the Asian-Pacific journalists' round-table conference held in Ho Chi Minh City, included journalists from Vietnam, Laos, the Soviet Union, Afghanistan, Czechoslovakia, O.I.J [International Organization of Journalists], Mongolia, India, Japan, Australia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Nepal, Fiji, England, France, the United States, and New Zealand.

Speaking on the occasion, the Kampuchean vice chairman briefed the journalists on the situation in Kampuchea under the Pol Pot regime during which, he said, the Kampuchean people were deprived of everything even the right to live with their families and subjected to an extremely hard life and barbarous tortures and murders, and on the development in the country after liberation which, he said, are attributed to the Kampuchean people's great efforts and the devoted assistance from Vietnam, Laos, the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist and friendly countries and international humanitarian organizations.

The P.R.K. Government has tried to procure enough food and clothing for its people though there remain many difficulties in its advance.

Asked about the withdrawal of Vietnamese Army volunteers from Kampuchea, he said the P.R.K. Government has proposed a concrete time-table for the withdrawal but the other Kampuchean sides have not yet taken it into due consideration.

Chea Soth described the Pol Pot clique as the most vicious elements. He said :

"Dialogue on the Kampuchean problem is making headway. But it is opposed by the Pol Pot gang which is being backed by outside forces hostile to the Kampuchean people. We will have no other way than to continue our fight for the final victory if the other sides keep on ignoring our efforts for peace and refuse to participate in negotiations". On the Kampuchean refugees, he said that since the P.R.K.'s policy on national reconciliation was put into effect a number of Khmer refugees have returned home.

"We always welcome those who wish to return home even in individual or in small groups", he said.

Asked about Sihanouk's influence on the Kampuchean people, he said that Sihanouk is charismatic only to the old generation and that this charisma is at its end.

The delegations left Kampuchea today after concluding their two-day visit.

While here, the delegations visited the Tuol Sleng Museum of Genocide in Phnom Penh and the Angkor temples in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province.

Willingness To Meet Khieu Samphan
BK240634 Hong Kong AFP in English 0601 GMT
24 Jan 88

[By Jacques Michel Tondre]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan 24 (AFP)—Phnom Penh has expressed for the first time its readiness to talk with Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan and has offered the Cambodian presidency to resistance head Prince Norodom Sihanouk if he wants it.

Chea Soth, vice-premier in the Hanoi-backed Phnom Penh regime, told a press conference here Saturday his government was ready to meet Mr. Khieu Samphan, leader of the strongest faction in the tripartite resistance coalition.

But the official, one of the five highest-ranking figures in the Phnom Penh government, strongly rejected any contacts with Mr. Khieu Samphan's predecessor Pol Pot and certain other Khmer Rouge figures whom he would not name.

He vehemently denounced the Khmer Rouge for its rule of Cambodia under Pol Pot in 1975-1979, during which the Chinese-backed regime was believed to have been responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of its own people.

Mr. Khieu Samphan has rejected any talks with Phnom Penh as long as an estimated 140,000 Vietnamese troops who invaded Cambodia in December 1978 to overthrow the Khmer Rouge a month later remain in the country.

He has not commented on the two rounds of peace talks held by Prince Sihanouk and Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen in France since early last month.

Hanoi's official press Sunday welcomed the latest talks near Paris Thursday and Friday, saying it hoped they would result in progress on the Cambodia issue despite continued differences on a Vietnamese pull-out and a future government. The QUAN DOI NHAN DAN newspaper said the existence of the Khmer Rouge would threaten a new Cambodian state and the group should be eliminated.

During the talks, Prince Sihanouk proposed forming a provisional government grouping his Sihanoukist National Army and the present Phnom Penh leadership.

Mr. Chea Soth speaking to about 40 correspondents brought to Cambodia for a 30-hour visit after attending a security conference in Vietnam, said Phnom Penh was ready to offer Prince Sihanouk the Cambodian presidency if he wanted it.

The vice-premier however was keen to stress that his regime was under no threat from the resistance and had trouble reconciling this with his government's desire to hold talks with Prince Sihanouk.

The correspondents, who were taken Saturday on a tour of the famous Angkor Wat Temple in the northern Siem Reap Province, did not see any sign of resistance activity during their stay in Cambodia.

They heard explosions during their three-hour visit to the temple but officials were unwilling to say whether these were the result of mortar fire between warring Cambodians or a simple military exercise.

The reporters, who were only allowed to talk with a number of political figures in officially organized meetings, were also not told why a night curfew was maintained in the capital if in fact the resistance posed no threat.

According to official statements, there is no war in Cambodia and the Vietnamese Army is only in the country to prevent a return of Pol Pot.

But a ruling party leader who wanted to remain anonymous said in Phnom Penh that a ceasefire in Cambodia was impossible since the "enemy" which does not control any territory, could use it to establish so-called "free zones."

Sihanouk Says Hun Sen, Son Sann To Meet
AU221450 Paris AFP in English 1343 GMT
22 Jan 88

[Text] Paris, Jan 22 (AFP)—Hun Sen, premier of the Vietnamese-backed Cambodian Government plans to meet with nationalist resistance leader Son Sann, former ruler Prince Norodom Sihanouk said here Friday.

Mr Son Sann, who heads the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, has "secretly" asked to meet Mr Hun Sen, the prince said he was told by the Phnom Penh leader on Thursday.

Mr Hun Sen asked Prince Sihanouk whether it "would be best to meet Mr Son Sann or to refuse," the former monarch said in a written resume of his two days of talks with the Phnom Penh prime minister, which ended near here Thursday.

Prince Sihanouk said he had told Mr Hun Sen that since it was in the "national interest," he was "in favour of one or more meetings" with Mr Son Sann.

"Mr Hun Sen concluded that in that case he would inform his Excellency Son Sann that he would see him," the prince said.

Mr Son Sann had refused to take part in the prince's second meeting with Mr Hun Sen, which took place at Saint Germain-en-Laye, unless Vietnam either sent a representative or gave a written pledge to withdraw its 140,000 troops from Cambodia.

No immediate confirmation was available of the intended meeting.

Son Sann Denies 'Secret' Meeting Request
AU221703 Paris AFP in English 1637 GMT
22 Jan 88

[Text] Paris, Jan 22 (AFP)—Cambodian nationalist resistance leader Son Sann on Friday accused the country's former monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk of "playing Vietnam's game" at peace talks here.

Mr. Son Sann, head of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), has been in France since Sunday, but refused to take part in talks Wednesday and Thursday meetings between Prince Sihanouk and the Vietnamese-backed Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.

At the talks, Prince Sihanouk proposed forming a provisional government grouping his Sihanoukist National Army, a faction of the tripartite Cambodian resistance, and Mr. Hun Sen's present leadership.

The prince told journalists Friday that Mr. Son Sann had "secretly" asked to meet Mr. Hun Sen.

However, Mr. Son Sann later told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that he had never asked for a meeting with the Cambodian premier, and accused the prince of "playing Vietnam's game" by proposing a bipartite government which would split the resistance.

Mr. Son Sann is prime minister of the anti-Vietnamese coalition recognised by the United Nations as the legitimate government of Cambodia. It comprises his KPNLF, Prince Sihanouk's forces, and the Beijing-backed Khmer Rouge, whose bloody four-year rule ended in 1978 with the Vietnamese invasion.

Mr. Son Sann said that Vietnam wanted to "divide the coalition" and stressed that it was essential that the resistance remain united.

He said he had not asked for a meeting with Mr. Hun Sen, but "if he wants to see me, he only has to ask the Vietnamese to come with him."

He reiterated that Vietnam would either have to attend the peace talks, or submit a written pledge to withdraw its troops from Cambodia.

Mr. Son Sann met the prince on Tuesday, the eve of the talks, and is due to leave here Sunday for Bangkok.

Hun Sen Receives Red Cross Representative
*BK251229 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1107 GMT
25 Jan 88*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 25—Chairman of the Kampuchean Council of Ministers Hun Sen received in Paris last Friday Jean de Courten, representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in charge of Asia and the Pacific.

The two sides discussed ICRC's medical aid to and cooperation with the Kampuchea Red Cross, the coordination of activities between the Kampuchean Red Cross and the United Nations high commissioner for refugees, the repatriation of Kampuchean refugees and the search for and reunion of displaced families. They exchanged views on the issue of Thai prisoners, the Bono Brian Sterling affair (Bono Brian Sterling is an American citizen who had illegally intruded into Kampuchean territory), and the issue of Americans reported missing in action (MIA) in Kampuchea.

The reception took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual understanding.

Thai Violations Report in Week Ending 14 Jan
*BK241329 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1121 GMT
24 Jan 88*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 24—In the week ending on Jan. 14, Thai L-19 and A-37 aircraft made 16 reconnaissance flights over many Kampuchean border areas including the Kampuchea-Laos-Thailand border

intersection (Preah Vihear Province), O Smach, Anlung Veng (Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey), Malai (Banteay Meanchey), the end of Road 156 (Pursat), O Da and Ta Sanh (Battambang).

On land, Thai troops fired from 150 to 400 artillery and mortar rounds a day on many border areas in the provinces of Preah Vihear, Battambang and Siem Reap.

On sea, Thai armed vessels made 49 intrusions into Kampuchean waters four to 12 miles off Kaoh Tang and Poulo Wai islands.

Thanks to their high vigilance, the Kampuchean Revolutionary Armed Forces, in close cooperation with Vietnamese Army volunteers, made timely interceptions against enemy troops who infiltrated from Thailand into Kampuchea for sabotage activities, putting out of action 215 intruders including 146 killed, 35 captured and 34 forced to surrender.

Hungarian Assembly Chairman Greets Chea Sim
*BK240520 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 0430 GMT 24 Jan 88*

[Text] Recently, Comrade Chea Sim, chairman of the PRK National Assembly, received a message from Comrade Istvan Sarlos, chairman of the National Assembly of the Hungarian People's Republic, extending greetings and best wishes to him on the occasion of the PRK national day. The message noted:

I am very happy to see that the friendly relations and cooperation between our two countries and peoples have further strengthened.

I wish you good health, firm strength, and greater success in fulfilling your tasks to reconcile your nation and to bring prosperity to your country.

Vietnamese Party Delegation Arrives
*BK231319 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1140 GMT
23 Jan 88*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 23—A delegation of the International Department of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee led by its deputy head Pham Dinh Vinh arrived here Thursday for an eight-day official friendship visit to Kampuchea.

The delegation was warmly welcomed on its arrival at Pochentong Airport by Prach Sun, vice-president of the Commission for External Relations of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and other Kampuchean officials.

SPK Reports Dry-Season Rice Growing
*BK221312 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1058 GMT
22 Jan 88*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 22—By mid-January, Kampuchean peasants had put 48,900 ha under dry-season rice, achieving 30.5 percent of the plan, said a report released by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The cultivated areas include 10,600 ha in Kompong Cham, 11,120 ha in Takeo, 8,400 ha in Kandal, 4,600 ha in Kratie, and from 1,200 ha to 2,000 ha in the provinces of Kompong Thom, Kompong Chhnang and Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey.

In the current rice cropping season, Kampuchea plans to apply intensive rice farming on 30,560 ha.

The provincial authorities throughout the country have provided farmers with chemical fertilizers and other necessary materials to enable them to fulfill the plan of rice production.

Commentary on SRV Diplomatic 'Maneuvers'
*BK230523 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic
Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 22 Jan 88*

[Station commentary: "Why Does the Hanoi Vietnamese Enemy Again and Again Call for Elimination of the Democratic Kampuchean Resistance Forces?"]

[Text] On 20 January, Vietnam ordered its lackeys and running dogs to bark in Paris, calling on everyone to unite and eliminate the Democratic Kampuchean resistance forces.

This is nothing new. In the past few years the Hanoi Vietnamese have again and again called for elimination of the Democratic Kampuchean forces. They have even set this as an unreasonable condition for Vietnamese troop withdrawal from Cambodia. Why do the Hanoi Vietnamese repeatedly call for elimination of the Democratic Kampuchean resistance forces?

People clearly realize why. Vietnam wants to eliminate the Democratic Kampuchean forces because they are powerful forces that are really fighting against the Vietnamese aggressors on the battlefield and are opposing the Vietnamese enemy's aggressive and expansionist strategy in order to safeguard the Cambodian nation and race from Vietnamese destruction and annexation.

In the past 9 years the Vietnamese enemy aggressors have made every effort to completely destroy militarily the Democratic Kampuchean resistance forces on the battlefield. However, they have failed. Although they have dispatched reinforcement troops, weapons, and war materiel to Cambodia every season and every year, the Vietnamese still fail to achieve their criminal ambition. On the contrary, they have been dealt heavy blows by the Democratic Kampuchean National Army, which has

bogged them down and forced them to face inextricable problems. Currently, the Vietnamese are at a complete impasse and in a clear position of defeat.

So, the Democratic Kampuchean National Army has not only fought the Vietnamese enemy to safeguard the Cambodian nation and race, but has also seriously dented the arrogance of the Vietnamese, who boast that their army is the third most powerful army in the world. The Democratic Kampuchean forces have also opposed the ambitions and the aggressive, expansionist strategy of the Hanoi Vietnamese in Southeast Asia. This is why the Vietnamese are furious with the Democratic Kampuchean forces. They know very well that, as long as the Democratic Kampuchean forces are around, Vietnam cannot annex Cambodia and set up the Indochinese federation. Therefore, they have tried to find ways to eliminate these forces.

Knowing that they cannot destroy the Democratic Kampuchean forces through military means, the Vietnamese are turning to political and diplomatic maneuvers such as calling on people to eliminate the Democratic Kampuchean forces because without these forces there would be no forces left to oppose Vietnam on the battlefield. Vietnam could then annex Cambodia. This maneuver is clearly stated in the 18 June 1987 secret document on decisions of the Vietnamese political body to be implemented by their puppets in Phnom Penh. In this document the Vietnamese say they cannot destroy Cambodian resistance forces, therefore, political and diplomatic offensives should be launched to destroy the Democratic Kampuchean forces, which are the backbone of the resistance forces. Once the Democratic Kampuchean forces are weakened, the other two parties' forces—namely those of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and His Excellency Son Sann—would also be weakened. Sticks should be provided to the enemies to fight one another, and so on. This secret document is enough proof of the Vietnamese enemy's deceitful diplomatic maneuvers.

Therefore, the Vietnamese call for elimination of the Democratic Kampuchean forces is not so that Vietnam can pull its forces out of Cambodia or for Cambodian national reconciliation. It is to remove the iron pin stuck in the Vietnamese throat for the last 9 years, preventing the Vietnamese from annexing Cambodia and setting up the Indochinese federation in accordance with their insane aggressive and expansionist strategy.

The Cambodian people are well aware of these Vietnamese maneuvers. So is the world. Therefore, no one will be fooled by these maneuvers. The Cambodian people will continue to unite and fight against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors on the battlefield and to fight more vigorously, and the world will continue to unite and pressure Vietnam until the Vietnamese are forced to really negotiate a political solution with the tripartite CGDK in order to resolve the Cambodian problem by pulling all of their aggressor forces out of Cambodia

unconditionally so that the Cambodian people can decide their own destiny without outside interference as prescribed by resolutions of the past nine UN General Assembly sessions.

SRV Condemned for 'War of Aggression'

BK240436 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Station commentary: "The Hanoi Authorities Cannot Turn the Cambodian Problem Which Was Caused by the Vietnamese Aggression With the Support of the Soviet International Expansionists Into an Internal Matter Between Cambodians"]

[Text] The Vietnamese enemy aggressors have been trying to turn the Cambodian problem which was caused by the Soviet-backed Vietnamese aggression into an internal matter between Cambodians.

To achieve this aim, they have launched a national reconciliation scheme, persuading the Cambodians to hold talks while they themselves who are the cause of the Cambodian problem stay away from the scene, thus turning the world's attention to the talks among the Cambodians instead of pressuring them to be responsible for the Cambodian problem. Particularly, they have launched this scheme in an attempt to sow discord among the Cambodian resistance forces and split the international forces supporting the Cambodian people's just struggle. This will give the Vietnamese aggressors a good opportunity to extricate themselves from their impasse on the battlefield and their all-round difficulties, and then turn to smash the Cambodian patriotic forces and realize their aggression in Cambodia.

But, the whole world is well aware of the fact that the Cambodian problem took place after the Hanoi authorities, with the support and assistance of the Soviet international expansionists, sent 250,000 troops to invade and occupy Cambodia. Nine years have elapsed, but hundreds of thousands of the Vietnamese troops are still stationed in Cambodia where they are continuing their barbarous war of aggression and genocide against the Cambodian race.

Moreover, there are more than 50,000 Vietnamese agents and more than 700,000 Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia. These Vietnamese nationals are helping the Vietnamese troops to control Cambodia.

The war that the Vietnamese are waging in Cambodia is not just a war of aggression to colonize Cambodia. The aim of this war is to exterminate the Cambodian nation and race and Vietnamize Cambodia both in terms of territory and population.

The world is also well aware of the true nature of the so-called Heng Samrin-Hun Sen regime. On the one hand, it is an illegal regime installed in 1979 with the

guns of the over 250,000 Vietnamese aggressor troops and, on the other, this Heng Samrin-Hun Sen clique has no power, militarily and politically.

The so-called Heng Samrin regime is in fact controlled by the more than 1 million Vietnamese nationals, military and civilian. Even those Cambodian administrators and soldiers, forcibly installed by the Vietnamese aggressors, are also controlled and supervised by these Vietnamese nationals. The handful of Heng Samrin-Hun Sen clique in Phnom Penh has neither any authority nor power in the Vietnamese aggressor administration in Cambodia. They are just puppets who only speak after the Vietnamese give the order. If the Vietnamese order them to count just up to ten, they will count only up to ten, neither more nor less.

All of this clearly proves that the war of aggression in Cambodia is not a civil war between the Cambodians and their fellow Cambodians. It is a Vietnamese war of aggression being waged against the Cambodian nation and people in an attempt to turn Cambodia into a part of Vietnam in accordance with the minor, major, and then great Indochinese federation strategies mapped out since 1930 by late Ho Chi Minh's Indochinese Communist Party.

Therefore, Vietnam cannot divert the problem of its aggression against Cambodia into an internal matter. If the Hanoi authorities refuse to really negotiate the settlement of the Cambodian problem with the CGDK through the total withdrawal of their aggressor troops from Cambodia, the world community will continue to pressure them and the Cambodian people, the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea, and all Cambodian patriotic forces will jointly carry on their fight against the Vietnamese aggressors in order to inflict more difficulties on them to the point that they are compelled to withdraw all their aggressor troops from Cambodia, thus allowing the Cambodian people to decide their own destiny in accordance with the nine UN resolutions.

Briefs

Bulgarian Justice Delegation

On the afternoon of 18 January at the Chamka Mon State Palace, Comrade Chea Sim, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee and chairman of the National Assembly and KUFNCD National Council, cordially held talks with the delegation of the Bulgarian Justice Ministry led by Comrade Svetla Daskalova, justice minister of the People's Republic of Bulgaria. [Excerpt] *[Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 19 Jan 88 BK]*

Returnees in Kompong Chhnang

In 1987, 32 misled persons turned themselves in to the revolutionary authorities in Kompong Leng District of Kompong Chhnang Province, bringing along 12 guns and a large quantity of ammunition and war materiel. [Excerpt] *[Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 16 Jan 88 BK]*

Mokhtar Discusses Upcoming USSR Visit

BK221421 Jakarta ANTARA in English
1337 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 22 (OANA-ANTARA)—Expansion of economic and trade relations between Indonesia and the Soviet Union, in addition to the Kampuchean dispute, will be the main topics of discussion in the course of Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja's visit to Moscow next month.

However, Mokhtar, in his weekly encounter with the press at his office here Friday, declined to elaborate on the special topics to be discussed during the visit.

He also did not give any indication on when he is visiting Moscow.

He said it will be a return visit in appreciation to the one made to Indonesia by Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in 1986, and hoped to meet with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Soviet Union, he said, was one of the countries in the world with a great potential to help solve the nine-year old Kampuchean conflict, and the problem would therefore be one of the most important subjects of the discussions.

The Soviet Union has been assisting Vietnam militarily and economically, and observers saw the fact as making Vietnam persistent in keeping its 140 thousand soldiers in Kampuchea since the overthrow of the Khmer Rouge regime led by Pol Pot at the end of 1978.

In the meantime, Kampuchean resistance leader Norodom Sihanouk had a second-stage meeting with the prime minister of the Vietnamese-backed Kampuchean Government, Hun Sen, seeking new breakthroughs.

Mokhtar said it was too early to comment on the matter.

Touching on the PNG [Papua New Guinea] issue, Mokhtar said Indonesia welcomes open-handedly the country's foreign policy of giving priority to its neighboring nations including Indonesia.

The visit of PNG Prime Minister Paias Wingti to Indonesia this week, according to Mokhtar, was part of the efforts to lay the foundation of the country's long term cooperation scheme with its neighboring states.

Realizing the efforts, the Indonesian Government will seriously try to help PNG carry out and materialize its policies, the minister said adding that now is the chance to conduct mutual cooperation because the country has aired its determination to become less dependent on various fields.

Previously, PNG's development activities depended greatly on Australia which can be seen from its national budget.

No less than 25 percent of PNG's national budget prior to the Paias Wingti administration, came from Australia's assistance.

The prime minister said here Thursday that the assistance for the current national budget has been cut to 16 percent only.

Friday morning Mokhtar also received Gambian Foreign Minister Omar B. Sey. Both ministers discussed the possibility of stepping up bilateral relations between the two countries and the problem of the Gulf war.

Economic relations are quite difficult between Indonesia and Gambia because of the great distance between the two countries but nonetheless there had been fruitful Indonesia-Gambia technical cooperation.

Quite a number of Gambians had come to Indonesia to undergo professional training in the fields of agriculture, public health and communication.

Three Gambians, for example, had graduated as pilots from Indonesia and are now flying commercial planes in their country.

Relations between the two countries are in general good especially after the visit of the Gambian foreign minister to Jakarta in 1984.

Gambia also consistently supports the Indonesian position in the UN on the East Timor issue.

In their talks Friday morning, Mokhtar and Sey also discussed efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war.

In the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) Gambian President Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara is the chairman of the Committee for Peace which since 1984 has dealt with the Gulf war.

Like Indonesia, Mokhtar said Gambia is a truly neutral country vis-a-vis the war in the Gulf.

Sey will be in Indonesia till Monday.

Suharto Receives Gambian Foreign Minister

BK230838 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian
0700 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] At the Bina Graha presidential office today, President Suharto received Gambian Foreign Minister Omar Sey, who arrived in Jakarta last Thursday [21 January] for a 4-day visit. No details of talks between the head of state and the Gambian visitor are available.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja, who accompanied the Gambian visitor, briefed newsmen on his report to the president on his planned visit to Moscow in the middle of next month. Mokhtar said that during his upcoming 3-day visit to Moscow, he will hold talks with Soviet leaders, especially his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze, on bilateral relations and regional issues, which include the Cambodian problem. Before proceeding to Moscow, Mokhtar will make a stopover in Geneva to address the UN Commission on Disarmament, which seeks to reduce tension in various parts of the world.

Singapore Foreign Minister, Delegation Arrive
BK250536 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian
0500 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Singapore's foreign minister, Suppiah Dhanabalan, and delegation arrived in Indonesia today to begin a 5-day visit in an effort to improve bilateral trade and economic relations between the two countries. The visit is seen as being appropriately timed in connection with the government's recent economic package offer.

During its visit to Indonesia, the delegation from the neighboring country will focus most of its attention on the situation in Sumatera due to its close proximity to Singapore.

Laos

Thai Troop Reportedly Carry Out Assaults
BK230236 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] According to a dispatch from Boten District, beginning at 1312 [0612] yesterday [22 January], the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries fired over 100 105-mm, 130-mm, and 155-mm artillery shells to support the attacks launched by infantrymen against various positions of Lao regional forces in Na Banoi canton, Boten District, Sayaboury Province. The fully alerted fraternal regional forces of Boten District successfully counterattacked and forced the aggressors to retreat in panic from the area within 30 minutes.

The reports also said that beginning at 1500 [0800] on 21 January, the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries fired more than 100 130-mm, 105-mm, 155-mm artillery shells and 106-mm mortar shells against the area west of Na Banoi canton while their infantrymen launched four assaults against positions of Lao regional forces in the area. However, our forces counterattacked and forced the Thai troops to retreat after suffering heavy casualties. On the same day, the Thai side aircraft flew many reconnaissance sorties over the three Lao hamlets of Ban Mai, Ban Kang, and Ban Savang in Paklai District of Sayaboury Province.

Chemical Weapons Use Charged

BK230804 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0430 GMT 23 Jan 88

In Boten District, at 1312 [0612] yesterday [22 January], the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries sent their infantrymen to attack positions of the Boten regional forces and successively fired 105-mm and 130-mm artillery shells into the area west of Na Banoi canton. They also bombarded the area with phosphor-tipped shells, flame throwers [Peun Fai], and grenades to assist the infantry assaults. The fighting lasted about 30 minutes. The regional forces of Boten District put up strong resistance, inflicting heavy casualties on the intruders before forcing them to retreat.

The report also said that the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries have prepared three calvary and ranger battalions for more assaults on our military outposts in the area.

'Many' Casualties Reported

BK240514 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] According to a local news report from Boten District, Sayaboury Province, yesterday evening, from 1200 to 1800 yesterday [23 January], the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries mobilized infantry forces, supported by artillery, to launch attacks against positions of our regional armed forces in Na Banoi canton on many occasions. In each episode, they were counterattacked heroically by our Lao regional armed forces. As a result, they were compelled to retreat.

Not being able to tolerate the aforesaid absurd acts of the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries, our fraternal brothers belonging to the regional armed forces launched counterattacks against them in a very heroic manner, thus inflicting heavy losses on them. The Thai troops fled in panic from the three positions that they seized. Many of them were killed and the dead bodies were left behind in the battlefield.

Further on 'Heavy Casualties'

BK250112 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] According to regional reports, in the past 2 days—23 and 24 January—the regional forces in Boten District, Sayaboury Province, strongly repulsed the aggression launched by Thai ultrarightist reactionary forces—who continued to mount nibbling attacks to seize Lao territory in Na Banoi canton—killing a large number of them and forcing them to retreat in panic. On 23 January alone, from 1200 to 1800, the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries deployed infantry forces supported by various types of artillery, and launched several attacks against positions occupied by our fraternal regional forces at Na Banoi canton. In each of these attacks they met with stiff resistance, heroically mounted by our side, which forced them to retreat. At the same time, our fraternal regional

forces mounted counterattacks in a heroic manner, inflicting heavy losses. This was the first time the regional forces of Boten District launched attacks against positions occupied by the Thai ultrarightist reactionary forces on Lao soil, forcing them to flee helter-skelter from three positions, leaving behind many dead bodies.

The reports went on to say that from 1900 on 23 January to 0600 yesterday, the Thai ultrarightist reactionary forces continued to fire artillery against our regional forces positions at Na Banoi canton. Compared with previous days, the artillery bombardments by the Thai troops were obviously less intensified. However, the fraternal regional forces and militia units of Boten District continue to maintain combat preparedness and to heighten a sense of vigilance at all times in order to repulse and punish the Thai ultrarightist reactionary forces in a prompt manner if they remain obdurate in launching nibbling attacks against Lao territory.

Government Statement Proposes February Talks
BK251345 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
1200 GMT 25 Jan 88

["LPDR Government Statement on the Intensification of the Attacks and Annexation of Lao Territory by the Thai Side"]

[Text] The situation along the Lao-Thai border during the past few years has been disturbed and lacked peace because a number of bad individuals in the Thai ruling circles have pursued a provocative attitude aimed at annexing Lao territory. As everybody knows, the conflict over the three hamlets in Paklai District of Sayaboury Province has not yet been settled and new incidents have occurred. Since the beginning of 1987, the Thai power holders have sent troops to seize LPDR territory in the vicinity of Na Banoi canton in Boten District, Sayaboury Province. The said maneuver has become more flagrant and violent every passing day. For instance, since 15 December 1987 they have intensified assaults with their air force and various kinds of artillery pieces, bombarding and indiscriminately and continuously shelling the area. They use shells containing phosphor and other toxic chemicals.

To defend their sovereignty and territorial integrity, the regional armed forces and people of Boten District are forced to exercise their right of self-defense to check the Thai intrusion. At the same time, the Lao side has been relentlessly trying to limit the said dangerous situation to a certain extent by proposing on several occasions that both sides jointly settle the problem through negotiations on the basis of equality and without any precondition. Unfortunately, important personalities in the government and many generals in the Thai Armed Forces have made statements favoring the military aggression. Worse still, on 22 January, Prem Tinsulanon, prime minister of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, together with other important personalities such as the defense minister, foreign minister, interior minister, army commander who is concurrently

serving as supreme commander, deputies and assistants of the army commander, and the army chief of staff made an inspection tour of the Thai-Lao border area where the incidents took place. The prime minister himself stated that the Heuang Nga River is the border between Thailand and Laos, the said area is inside Thai territory, and that the Thai Armed Forces will soon succeed in pushing Lao troops from the area. The Thai prime minister's statement indicated that relations between the two countries through negotiations run counter to the interests and aspiration of the Thai and Lao people who always want to coexist peacefully and turn the border between the two countries into a border of peace and friendship. The attitude of the Thai power holders in this regard contradicts the growing trend calling for the settlement of all conflicts through negotiations in Southeast Asia and the world.

The LPDR Government categorically rejects the Thai assertion that the Heuang Nga River is the border between the two countries. It maintains that the Heuang River is the border between the two countries as prescribed by the Franco-Siamese Treaty of 1907 and the protocol attached to the treaty. Legally speaking, in reality, and as the map and border posts indicate, the area of Na Banoi is under the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the LPDR. The LPDR demands that the Thai side cease all military maneuvers of attacking and annexing Lao territory, withdraw all of its armed forces, and respect the LPDR's sovereignty and territorial integrity and the basic principles of the two Lao-Thai joint communiques of 1979. In face of the present dangerous situation, the LPDR Government sincerely calls on the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand to respond in a constructive manner to the good-will proposal for negotiations put forth by the Lao side for the benefit of traditional friendship between the two nations and of the interests of the peoples of the two countries. The LPDR Government appeals to the fraternal Thai people to actively contribute to the effort to end the useless bloodshed and push for negotiations between the governments of the two countries so as to revive the brotherly ties between the two nations.

In order to put an end to such a situation as quickly as possibly, the LPDR hereby proudly declares that it is ready to send its delegation to Bangkok in early February 1988 to hold talks with the Thai side. If the Thai side is unable to welcome the Lao delegation for any reason, the LPDR is willing to invite a Thai delegation to come to Vientiane during the said period.

The LPDR Government calls on the government of all friendly countries, the United Nations, international organizations, the Nonaligned Movement, and the peace- and justice-loving opinions in the world to render their support and encouragement for the LPDR's correct stance and good-will attitude and call for negotiations between Thailand and Laos in order to halt the fightings and contribute to peace and stability in Southeast Asia and in the world.

Vientiane. 25 January 1988

Embassy Spokesman Counters Thai Claim
BK250709 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] On the afternoon of 22 January, Vang Lattanavong, counselor at the Lao Embassy in the Kingdom of Thailand, held a news conference at the embassy to give the true story on the nibbling attacks and occupation of Lao territory west of Na Banoi canton, Boten District, Sayaboury Province. Attending the conference were more than 50 Thai and foreign reporters stationed in Bangkok, including reporters from all the Thai television channels, three Japanese television networks, the Visnews, AFP, REUTER, UPI, AP, and all Thai newspapers.

At the news conference, Vang Lattanavong clearly explained the various incidents created by Thai troops in Na Banoi canton, which have have resulted in open encroachment on Lao sovereignty and territorial integrity for the vested interests of certain influential persons and for the strategic objective of launching nibbling attacks to seize Lao territory. Subsequently, he noted the many operations launched by Thai troops in each period with the aim of seizing Lao territory, including the first and second "Phou Soi Dao Operations". In each operation and each period, the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries deployed their forces and war weapons to launch violent attacks on the positions manned by our Lao regional forces in Boten District. All types of war weapons, including light weapons, heavy artillery, F-5 jet aircraft, helicopters armed with rockets, and chemical weapons, have been used in the attacks against the positions of our Lao regional forces at various heights since 15 December 1987.

Vang Lattanavong also clearly explained to the reporters about the borderline in Boten District, Sayaboury Province, with Thailand by referring to the correct maps drawn up in accordance with the 1907 French-Siamese treaty.

Answering questions fielded by the Thai and foreign reporters, Vang Lattanavong firmly stressed the unchangeable and correct stand and good intention of the Lao side in wanting at all times to maintain relations of good neighborliness and friendship with the Thai people. The Lao side proposed that the Thai side rapidly begin negotiations with the Lao side without any preconditions and on an equal footing in accordance with the 1979 Lao-Thai joint communiques.

Philippines

Paper Interviews USSR Ambassador Sokolov
HK250335 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 24 Jan 88 p 14

[Interview by Amando Doronila and Marites Sison with USSR Ambassador Oleg Mikhailovich Sokolov]

[Text] The New Soviet ambassador to the Philippines, Mr. Oleg Mikhailovich Sokolov, is a departure from the popular caricature of the dour, uncommunicative and

mysterious Russian diplomat. Mr. Sokolov, 51, is amicable, urbane, articulate in English, relaxed, and accessible to media for interviews.

In the Gorbachev era of glasnost (openness) and perestroika (restructuring), Mr. Sokolov fits into the new mold of Soviet diplomacy. Perhaps his long years of service in the Soviet Embassy in Washington has something to do with this. Before he came to Manila, Mr. Sokolov was minister-counsellor in Washington for seven years.

Pipe-smoking and well-dressed, Mr. Sokolov answers journalists' questions patiently, giving the Soviets the "human-face" it wants to project in the Gorbachev era. That, plus stints in Washington will surely be put to good use in Manila given the review of the US military bases agreement this year, the Pacific thrust of the Gorbachev initiative in Vladivostok, and the influence of American culture in the country.

Mr. Sokolov's casual approach to diplomacy, though very different from the humorless manner of the former Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Molotov, does not entirely eradicate the enigmatic nature of the Russians. For despite glasnost, the Russians remain enigmatic.

When we asked for Mr. Sokolov's bio-data, the Soviet news organization NOVOSTI sent us a sketchy profile that revealed little about the man but much about the Russian enigma.

The bio-data merely stated that Oleg Sokolov was born in 1937 (no place of birth is mentioned), that he graduated from the Moscow Institute of International Relations, that he entered the diplomatic service in 1960. From 1968 to 1972, he was second, then first secretary of the Soviet Embassy in Washington and from 1972 to 1981, he was first secretary, then councillor, then head of section, then deputy director of the Department of US Affairs of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 1981, Mr. Sokolov was named minister-counsellor at the Washington embassy.

The ambassador is married and has a daughter, three years old. The final entry in his brief bio-data says: hobby—tennis (no grade mentioned).

Opening Statement of Mr. Sokolov.

Exactly two years ago, we advanced the program of ridding the world of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction by the year 2000. We pride ourselves not only on having advanced these proposals but also on the fact that these proposals were accompanied by an expression of our political philosophy. Insofar as international relations, peace in the world, and security for all nations are concerned.

It is what we call new political thinking which is based on two pillars. One is the premise that the world in which we live is still dangerous and could even become more dangerous with the addition of new weapons. It has already been saturated with that, and the insecurity of the world depends and proceeds precisely from this unfortunate state of events.

The other premise is that the world is simultaneously interdependent and the security of one nation, of one people, cannot be achieved or attained without the security of other nations and peoples still less at the expense of other nations and peoples. So that's why I still believe that a system of comprehensive security and peace should be established in the world.

Hence, this proposal by General Secretary Gorbachev to suggest ways that we think would lead to this comprehensive system of international affairs.

Three years have passed and what has been achieved? I think that the situation has become healthier not only in the general way, in the general atmosphere, in the general relaxation of tensions in the world, but also because some very concrete steps have been taken of late, I mean, of course, the treaty between the Soviet Union and the United States completely eliminating the two classes of nuclear weapons on the global scale which I think is important not only for Europe and the Atlantic but also for Asia and the Pacific.

What we are looking for now is the next step which the two leaders of the two countries, the United States and the Soviet Union, have already more or less agreed on, and that is to try to eliminate the threats of the strategic nuclear arsenals of the USSR and the US and if that is attainable we're planning to do that by the time of their next meeting in Moscow this year.

I could just give you one small example of what this means in terms of actual destructive power. It has been alleged that the INF treaty is but a fraction of the entire arsenals of the two countries. Actually it comprises four percent of their over-all nuclear arsenals yet this four percent represents in destructive power the equivalent of two hundred World War II's. What are the implications of the INF for, first, the ASEAN declaration for intensification of efforts for the establishment of a ZOPFAN [zone of freedom, peace and neutrality], second, for the declaration or a treaty for a nuclear weapons free zone in Southeast Asia, and third, for the bases problems between the Philippines and US?

First of all, I think that the whole implication of the treaty is quite apparent not only, as I said, for the world at large because after all we are producing the weapons on a global basis, but also for this specific area because the elimination of these weapons takes place also in our Asia territory. It is important to note that the INF treaty is a very important element in the reduction of the nuclear factor in the Asian and Pacific area.

Why is that so? Let me point out the fact which I think is sometimes overlooked here. You may recall that in the process of our negotiations with the US, at one point, we were insisting on retaining 100 warheads in the Asian part of the Soviet territory so as to offset the nuclear presence of the other power in the same area. But then we removed this condition without any reference to the continued nuclear presence of that other power in the region.

Now let me point out the fact that this very step by the Soviet Union was not the first one in terms of actually reducing the nuclear danger in the area. We have made a solemn declaration that we will not be the first to use nuclear weapons, coupled with a similar declaration on the part of the People's Republic of China. That means reduction of the nuclear danger in the area. So these things combined I think are favorable to the situation in the area.

What effects would the INF treaty have on the bases here? Senate President Jovito Salonga has said the bases here may no longer be of such crucial importance to the US.

Our position with regards to the military bases is very clear and very open. We do not think that the security of the area, and by that I mean the area at large, is going to be enhanced by the retention of the bases or the perpetuation of the bases. Rather we believe that the withdrawal of the bases would be more becoming for the security of the entire region and we have said not once but many times that in case this happens (and that of course is something which other countries have to decide by themselves... it will be their sovereign decision) the Soviet Union will not leave that kind of step unanswered and that means quite a lot.

I have already pointed out that there are other favorable factors such as the INF treaty and the fact that the USSR in general has solemnly proclaimed that it will not be the first to use nuclear weapons. So the rationale for retaining the bases is getting more and more eroded. Insofar as our official attitude toward the creation of ZOPFAN and the nuclear free zone in the area is concerned, we certainly support these ideas and we have said so publicly in our official statements. We also support a broad dialogue with individual countries of ASEAN and also with that organization as a group, on matters of security, peace, mutual interests and collaboration.

Are you prepared to pull out your forces from facilities in Vietnam and under what conditions?

Well we have already indicated that if the presence of the military bases is ended we will not leave that matter unanswered and we'll certainly take appropriate steps. But let us examine the concept of so-called balance which supposedly exists in the area, this is a little bit strange logic to me because there certainly is an asymmetry within that kind of a balance.

Now there's no denial that the military presence of another Asian power is overwhelming in the area. So when we are talking about the balance we have to also view whatever facilities we may have in the area against that ground as well. It is precisely on that premise that our idea of reducing this presence and the other power's taking head of that reduction are essential. So we believe that the first step in that direction given the imbalance within that bound is somebody else's and I think it is only fair.

Given the INF treaty, do you think that it has opened the way as a model for arms reduction that will make the bases in the Philippines less important to the US?

Well it's very hard for me to speculate on what is and what is not important to the US. But the point we say are some of the obvious things which I think everybody knows about—that is, that the bases were here long before whatever presence of the Soviet Union was in the area. They were here, as far back as 1947, and they have been perpetually the suspect at that time.

In that particular strategic and international environment, the rationale for the bases was certainly different and therefore, when we speculate, when we try to talk about what is in the interest of the US, it certainly is not my job to answer that question. But I think that the environment which is now shaping up points in the direction of diminishing the need, the rationale and the actual foundation for either maintaining the arms, the weapons, the bases, the military presence, or increasing the weaponry in the world including the areas of Asia and the Pacific.

During the ASEAN summit a secret report of the ASEAN foreign ministers to their heads of government stated that the Soviet Union was expanding its military influence in Southeast Asia and that this is a destabilizing factor in the region. Can you comment on that?

First of all, I cannot comment on something which is not official. Secondly as to the core of the question, let me say that even if that pains me, we are ready to deal with that. Now if you take, let's say, the Vladivostok speech by Gorbachev, it was there and then when it was suggested that we should perhaps, after the negotiations, work on the reduction of let's say, naval activities in Asia and the Pacific, especially ships which carry nuclear weapons.

Another proposal was that we perhaps could limit the areas in which submarines are supposed to operate.

There have been recent meetings in Karachi between American officials and your officials on the Afghanistan question. Do you foreshadow any significant breakthrough in terms of withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan within the year and also withdrawal of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia? Cambodia, after all, is a key question in the Indo-China problem.

Well, you were saying that there were meetings in Karachi between the Soviet and American representatives. This is not entirely correct. What we had at that time was a visit by Foreign Minister Shevardnadze to Kabul on the one hand and a visit by Undersecretary Armacost to Pakistan on the other hand.

But what I would like to say is that we are indeed looking forward to the withdrawal of Soviet troops in Afghanistan in the course of this year. Now we have said many times the political decision to withdraw from Afghanistan has already been taken by the Soviet Union. What we are now looking for is precisely the arrangement or rather the last part of that arrangement which of course belongs to the negotiations between the Afghans and the Pakistanis through the United Nations representatives in Geneva.

One of the optimistic signs is that it has been agreed that there will have to be a mutual arrangement so as both the Soviet Union and the US will serve as guarantors of that settlement in the area.

Naturally, we assume that if the US is going to serve as a guarantor on its part then it would mean that it would cease to give its support to the resistance forces.

Insofar as the Kampuchean situation, we also see some hopeful signs there. First of all, there has been the new process of direct talks between the parties involved, I mean the Kampucheans and Premier Hun Sen on the one hand, and, of course, Prince Sihanouk on the other. What I think is extremely important is the understanding that they have achieved during their first meeting and that is that the solution to the Kampuchean problem is to be found on the path of political dialogue and between the Kampuchean sides themselves.

How many troops do you really have now in Afghanistan? Do you want to reveal it now?

Well it's been reported already and I think the number is about 100,000.

How would you assess the bilateral relations between the Soviet Union and the Philippines?

Well, I think that we have, basically, a lot of untapped potential. Now let me say first of all the policy of the Soviet Union with regard to its relationship with the Philippines is very open and promising.

Our relations are young; they are slightly more than 10 years of age. We feel that we could develop it further along the entire spectrum of issues or areas in which it could really be of help. One of these is obviously the area of political dialogue.

It seems to me we have a lot of potential in developing our economic relationship. Other areas are also available and open. There are encouraging changes like the people contracts, like the changes also in the media.

Sir, could you be more specific as to how the economic relations between the Philippines and the Soviet Union can be broadened?

Well we're working on various projects and one possibility is joint ventures between Filipino corporations and those in the Soviet Union. There are other opportunities but the problem is that they have not probably been explored yet, not in detail, not in real terms.

There seems to be a growing interest in the Philippines in an economic relationship with the Soviet Union and certainly there's an interest on our part to have broader economic relations with the Philippines as well as any other country in the area. I'm saying that not because we are altruistic—in this respect nothing could be further than that. There has to be mutual benefit.

Ambassador Alejandro Melchor has put to the Cabinet about half a dozen projects. Is there any development, and if there are problems, what seems to be the cause for lack of progress on these projects?

Well, I don't know what's been causing the delay but it seems to me that the intention is certainly there.

In fact we're waiting for the arrival of the Soviet delegation to come over and perhaps meet business people here and discuss in concrete terms what can be done, what are the possibilities and opportunities here and what fair trade will be attractive or lucrative to both sides.

I understand that the Soviet Union is seeking membership in the ADB [Asian Development Bank]. Has there been any concrete step in that direction?

Insofar as the bank is concerned we sent our observer last year to a meeting of the board of governors of that bank which occurred in Osaka, Japan. I understand the bank is extending another invitation this year for our observer to come over and the meeting will be taking place here in Manila. That's all I can say at this point.

So what's the relationship of the Communist Party here and the Communist Party in the Soviet Union? There have been very persistent reports of arms shipments here coming from allegedly communist sources.

I have already had a couple of chances to dispute that or to disavow that. I know for a fact that no such shipments existed. It existed in the minds of those who write the stories and I think there is no misunderstanding between the government of the USSR and the government of the Philippines. There is no problem of interference in our respective internal relations or even in our respective internal affairs between the USSR and the Philippines. Insofar as the contacts, we don't have any. We do not maintain any contact with what you call the Communist Party.

Is that still a carryover of the support of the Soviet party in the old Communist Party here?

Well it has been a fact for many years. Nothing has changed.

What about people-to-people contacts?

I'm not aware of that.

You were the No. 2 man in the embassy in Washington. Is there any significance to your assignment here because of your background and experience in Washington and given the US-Philippine problem especially in the coming years over the bases, over security arrangements?

Well frankly I don't see any connection between my assignment here in Manila and the previous record of service in the US except of course for the fact that I have been in the foreign service of the USSR, including my service in the US, for about 27 years by now. So I'd rather look at this assignment as an extremely interesting activity, as a natural result of my service for the Soviet Union.

Do you detect any hesitation on the part of the government to forge stronger ties with the Soviet Union in the light of what has often been said that the Philippines has "special relations" with the US?

Well, no, I don't think I can trace any particular reluctance on the part of the government of the Philippines to develop greater relations with the Soviet Union. I think we simply have to discuss what are the intentions in that relationship, what are the possibilities, what we can do to fulfill what we can political dialogue between the two countries.

What issues could be involved in the political dialogue...?

First of all, the issue to be addressed will be the common security problems in the area. It seems to me that it is very important to have this direct dialogue so that there will be no misunderstanding between the two countries as to the intentions and policies of each of them toward each other.

That's on the ambassadorial level...at the beginning...

Yes, but I'm also looking forward to the possibility of our deputy foreign minister coming to Manila.

Coming here, this year?

We have been talking about that as far back as last year and there was some question in terms of specific terms associated with it. I think that we could explore very well the possibility of interchange. We should play a greater role in promoting the overall political relations between the two countries and I know for a fact that our government will definitely bring a congressional delegation from the Philippines to the USSR. And I have the honor of transmitting such as invitation to the Congress of the Philippines.

What about the possibilities of President Aquino visiting the Soviet Union?

We'd welcome such a possibility, no question about that.

But has an invitation been extended yet to her?

There has been.

Was it accepted?

Well, it was extended in the message of Gorbachev relayed to your Government on behalf of our President Gromyko at the time of presentation of my credentials.

Sir, for your profile, how are you adjusting to your post?

Frankly, the first couple of days were a little hard on me because the difference in temperature between Moscow and Manila was at least 35 degrees. But gradually it became okay and I haven't really experienced any problem here. But I think what is personally important for me is my daughter who is three years old and who has been doing fine since the very beginning. She did not notice this sort of difference or at least she adapted herself to this very well.

Otherwise I think this country is very friendly and I am discovering it for the first time because it is the first time for me in this country. I don't have difficulty with my contacts.

Soviets Said Planning 'Diplomatic Offensive'
*HK250237 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 24 Jan 88 p 1*

[By Marties Sison]

[Text] The Soviet Union plans to launch this year a series of diplomatic offensives in the Philippines, including a "political dialogue", with top government officials.

In a recent interview with the CHRONICLE, Soviet Ambassador Oleg Mikhailovich Sokolov said Moscow hoped that the political dialogue would include discussions on security issues affecting the Asia Pacific region.

Among the diplomatic offensives are a visit, possibly next month, by Igor Rogachev, Soviet deputy foreign minister for Asian and Pacific Affairs, and a visit in April by a Soviet mission to explore ways of expanding Philippine-Soviet cooperation in trade, investment and joint ventures.

Sokolov also disclosed standing invitations to President Aquino and members of Congress to visit the USSR.

Political analysts see the diplomatic offensives as part of the Soviet preparation for the review this year of the Philippine-American bases agreement and for 1992 when the agreement expires.

Sources said Rogachev, credited with paving the way for the normalization of Sino-Soviet relations, was expected to tour Asia starting February.

The Philippines is likely to be included in his itinerary the sources said.

If pushed through, the Philippine-Soviet political dialogue will be the first since the two countries set up diplomatic ties on June 2, 1976.

The Soviet Union has consistently stated that the military bases in Subic and Clark—the U.S. largest overseas—serve as deterrent to peace and stability in the region.

Sokolov reaffirmed this by saying "We do not think that the security of the area at large is going to be enhanced by the retention or the perpetuation of the bases", but rather by their withdrawal.

Sokolov also restated the policy set by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in his speech in Vladivostok in June 1986. Gorbachev said that should the U.S. withdraw its bases from the Philippines or should the Philippine decide to let them go, "the Soviet Union will not leave that kind of step unanswered."

Sokolov said the U.S.-Soviet treaty eliminating medium- and short-range nuclear missiles, which was signed by U.S. President Reagan and Gorbachev last month, was a "very important element in the reduction of the nuclear factor in the Asian and Pacific area."

Asked whether the treaty could serve as a model for arms reduction and make the military bases here less important to the U.S., Sokolov said: "It's very hard for me to speculate on what is and what is not important to the U.S."

He added, however, that "the environment now shaping up (in the region) points in the direction of diminishing the need, the rationale and the actual foundation for maintaining the arms, the weapons, the bases and the military presence" of the superpowers in the world, including Asia and the Pacific.

Talks Slated With PRC on Bond Requirement
*HK251103 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 25 Jan 88*

[Text] Representatives of the Philippines and China are slated to meet this week to ease a minor tension resulting from a Philippine requirement that all Chinese visitors to the country have to post a P100,000 cash bond. The imposition of the cash bond was strongly denounced by the Chinese Embassy, claiming that it was a discriminatory act against them, as other foreign visitors to the country are not subject to the same requirement. The order was made by the Commission on Immigration and Deportation.

Aquino Announces More Military Appointments
*HK230255 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company
in English 2300 GMT 22 Jan 88*

[Text] President Corazon Aquino announced two more military appointments following the resignation of her defense secretary and the naming of chief of staff General Fidel Ramos as his successor. President Aquino designated General Fidel Ramos as defense secretary Thursday to replace Rafael Ileto. Ileto resigned after charging that his proposals to fight the communists had been ignored. Vice Chief of Staff and PC chief Lieutenant General Renato de Villa was nominated to succeed Ramos. Both appointments are subject to congressional approval.

Also yesterday, President Aquino said deputy chief of staff Major General Eduardo Ermita would replace de Villa in the number two military post. She also confirmed that National Capital Region Defense Command commander Brigadier General Ramon Montano would take over as Constabulary chief. Philippine Marine commandant Brigadier General Rodolfo Biazon was also named chief of the National Capital Region Defense Command. His deputy Colonel Braulio Balbas Jr is now the marine commandant.

Twenty-one senior colonels and navy captains from the various branches of the military were also promoted to star rank. However, under the constitution, the appointments of Ramos, de Villa, Biazon and Balbas as well as the promotions of the new generals will have to be approved by the Commission on Appointments.

Expresses Hope for Unity
*HK221235 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
1000 GMT 22 Jan 88*

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In an interview with Malacanang newsmen, President Aquino said that after the local polls and the reorganization of the military leadership, there will be unity not only in the military but throughout the country as well.

[Begin Aquino recording in English] I am hopeful that after the local election is over, both winners and citizens will come together. Then we will be able to work better. This is my fervent appeal, and I hope that our countrymen will heed my appeal. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Representative Guillego criticized the appointment of General Ramos as defense secretary. He said that this is politicking in the Armed Forces. He added that Ramos' appointment to the defense portfolio is in preparation for his 1992 presidency bid.

In a statement issued through Camp Aguinaldo's public information office, Gen Ramos said that he considers his predecessor Rafael Ileto to be his friend, mentor, and older brother. Here is a report, by Rey Rodriguez:

[Begin recording] Gen Ramos stressed that Secretary Ileto is his mentor, older brother, friend, and superior. It is a great privilege for him to be Ileto's successor, and he thanked the president for her confidence in him.

Ramos commented on the appointment of General Renato de Villa as new Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, saying that he is certain that this change will give rise to a favorable future for the Filipino soldier and for the Armed Forces.

Ramos added that he is a supporter of the people's power revolution of February 1986 and his philosophy in life is to preserve the democracy we attained, enshrined by our people in our new Constitution.

Ramos promised that the obedience to the fundamental law and helping in the stability of our nation against attempts will be his daily duty.

Gen Ramos had previously tendered his resignation as Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff on 16 September 1987, but the president rejected his move. [end recording]

Ileto Aide Wounded in Ambush 23 January
*BK231114 Hong Kong AFP in English 1103 GMT
23 Jan 88*

[Text] Manila, Jan 23 (AFP)—Gunmen Saturday wounded a military aide to former Defence Secretary Rafael Ileto in a pre-dawn ambush outside the main army base here, Defence Department spokesmen said.

Sergeant Ezekiel Zaragoza was driving a security car assigned to escort Mr. Ileto, who resigned Thursday as defence secretary, when the gunmen overtook him in a red car and opened fire, wounding him in the thigh.

Sgt. Zaragoza said in a DZRH radio interview that he saw about three of four men in the car as it passed him, riddling his vehicle with bullets.

Two army base guards rushed to him and took him to the hospital.

Mr. Ileto was quoted by Manila's EVENING STAR newspaper as saying he did not believe the attack was intended for him.

Defence Department spokesmen also said it was not immediately clear if the gunmen were after Mr. Ileto.

But the EVENING STAR reported the gunmen had trained their shots on the back seat of the car where Mr. Ileto usually sits.

Mr. Ileto made no mention of the ambush when interviewed by reporters hours later after being decorated for his services by President Corazon Aquino with the Legion of Honour—the Republic's highest award.

Postponed Local Polls Begin in 'Hot Spots'

HK250421 Baguio City Mountain Province
Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] The Commission on Elections and the military are focusing their attention on Ilocos Sur and four other provinces and two cities, all considered hot spots, for the holding of local elections today. About 1.25 million voters will go to the polling places in Ilocos Sur, Abra, Ifugao, Quezon including Lucena city, and Maguindanao including Cotabato city to elect their governors, vice governors, board members, mayors, vice mayors and councillors.

Comelec officials were sent to these places to supervise the polling from 7 am to 4 pm. Military troops were also concentrated in these areas where last Monday's elections have been postponed because of the tense situation.

In Ilocos Sur, tension was high between the followers of gubernatorial candidates (Talagmid Bateria) and (Nervarico Singson). Elections were postponed in these places to prevent killings, check massive cheating by candidates and their supporters and ensure that the will of the people expressed through the ballots will prevail.

The Comelec has taken measures to ensure peace and order in the five provinces.

Salonga Pledges Continued Support for Aquino

OW231151 Tokyo KYODO in English 1113 GMT
23 Jan 88

[Text] Manila, Jan. 23 KYODO—Senate President Jovito Salonga Saturday vowed to continue to help Philippines President Corazon Aquino surmount the "increasingly difficult problems" confronting her administration.

"I would like the government to succeed and my differences with the relatives of President Aquino should occupy a very secondary role," he told a news conference.

"Massive poverty, gross injustices, the worsening insurgency problem ... our dependency on external forces, our burgeoning foreign debt," said Salonga are the problems facing Aquino.

Salonga swore into office the LP [Liberal Party] bets who trounced three relatives of the 54-year old president in Monday's bailoting in Rizal Province which borders the northern towns of the capital.

He said that the victory of LP gubernatorial bet Dr. Rey San Juan over presidential cousin Victor Sumulong by a wide margin was a "rejection of the whole practice and concept of political dynasties."

"We began from zero in Rizal," said Salonga, "we did not even have a village captain but now we have the whole provincial government ... it was victory we did not expect."

Search Begins for Clandestine Station

HK230629 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0500 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] The National Telecommunications Commission [NTC] has started a search to locate the broadcast transmitter used by the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] in transmitting its clandestine Radio Sierra Madre-Voice of the Free Philippines on 26 December.

According to NTC commissioner Jose Luis Alcuaz, the commission is working with the military in looking for the transmitter as well as other broadcast equipment used by the CPP. He added that they would also help identify the technicians and engineers who set up the transmitter.

In a report to Transportation Secretary Reinerio Reyes, Alcuaz said that the commission was setting up broadcast facilities to jam the clandestine broadcasts of the CPP.

Thailand

Prime Minister Visits Disputed Border Area

BK230043 Bangkok THE NATION in English
23 Jan 88 pp 1, 2

[Text] Phitsanulok—Premier Prem Tinsulanon declared yesterday that the Thai military intends to drive Laotian troops from a disputed, embattled border area that "clearly is in our territory."

Speaking at Chat Trakan District's Na Charoen Village, about 6 kilometres from the disputed area occupied by Laotian soldiers, Prem said Thai forces will soon succeed in pushing "the intruders" across the border.

"I want to assure the Thai people that it's our territory. We have never intruded into Laos as accused. The public must not believe that allegation. "We want to be Laos' friend, but we also want to take a right and fair stand," Prem told reporters.

Prem and a group of senior government and military officials arrived in helicopters at the village in the morning amid tight security. They later received a 40-minute briefing on the border situation from senior officers of the 3rd Army Region.

"We are speaking the truth, and don't want any political gains," the prime minister said, adding: "We have to protect our land, and our soldiers are carrying out that duty."

Lt Gen Siri Thiwaphan, commander of the 3rd Army Region, said Thursday that 30 Thai soldiers have been killed and about 70 others wounded in the continuing battle to control the border area in Chat Trakan District.

He said Laos is believed to have suffered heavier casualties, with an estimated 80 troopers killed.

Among the officials accompanying Prem were Army Commander in Chief Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Defence Minister Phaniang Kantarat, Interior Minister Prachuap Sunoharangkun and Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila.

Sitthi told reporters that Laos has not yet shown interest in holding talks with Thailand on the conflict.

He said "it's noticeable" that the dispute erupted amid looming hope of a solution to the Kampuchean conflict through Sihanouk-Hun Sen peace talks.

Sitthi said Laos may be trying to "create an impression that Thailand is a trouble-maker."

Asked if Thailand will consider cutting off diplomatic ties with Vientiane, he said: "We don't think that far."

Prem and his entourage later visited a Thai artillery camp in the disputed area.

Speaking to reporters in Bangkok later in the afternoon, Gen Chawalit said the situation at the border area "has not changed very much."

He said Thai authorities are trying to prevent the dispute from escalating into a major conflict.

He said "only a handful of Laotian soldiers" are left on the strategic hill.

Siri, the regional Army commander, has said that only 150-200 Laotians are still entrenched in the area.

AVM [Air Vice Marshal] Sommot Suntharawet, the Air Force spokesman, told a monthly news conference that the Air Force had conducted three air strikes against the Laotian intruders.

He said they took place on Dec 15, 24 and Jan 6.

The air strikes caused "some damage" to the Laotians, he said.

Meanwhile, military sources reported Laotian reinforcements, including artillery and Soviet-made tanks, have arrived at the border area.

Makes Statement to Newsmen

*BK231149 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai
1300 GMT 22 Jan 88*

[22 January statement made by Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon to reporters in Ban Na Charoen, Na Hao District, Loei Province, after making an inspection trip to the border area—recorded]

[Text] I want all of you to be certain about the borderline issue. I think you probably know that the correct borderline in accordance with international law is the Huang Nga River. The maps clearly prove that. So, we have not

violated Lao territory. On the contrary, the Lao side has intruded into our territory. What the military has to do is to push them out and the military is carrying out that duty. I think this will be accomplished soon.

I want you to report clearly that we are not the intruding side. It is the Lao side that has intruded into our territory. We are speaking the truth and not for political gains. The maps and actual geographical conditions have clearly shown that all along. We have to protect our Thai territory. Our military men have been carrying out that duty for some time, and they have tried their best.

In the field of foreign affairs, the Foreign Ministry is doing its best. We regard the Lao people as friends and do not want to have any problems with them. However, friendship should be based on the principles of correctness and justice.

I want to assure you that our government, on behalf of the Thai people, will do what is correct and fair. So, I want you to tell the people that what we have done is protect the property of our country. We do not intend to intrude into Lao territory.

Among those who accompanied me on my inspection trip were ministers from the ministries concerned as well as the Army commander in chief, who is working hard and carrying out an important task, and military units from from the 3d Army and 2d Army Regions.

I want the people to be confident in, and give moral support to, those who are carrying out their duty. I want to assure you that all of us will do our best in protecting the interests of the Thai people and in maintaining the fairness, reputation, and prestige of our country. We will not intrude into another's territory, but neither will we allow anyone to intrude into ours.

Sitthi Comments on Lao Border Situation

*BK230929 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
1300 GMT 22 Jan 88*

[Text] Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila, rejecting Laos' accusation that Thailand has intentionally intruded into Lao territory, told reporters that in fact it is the Lao side that has intruded into Thai territory and has seized Thai people and territory as well. The Foreign Ministry will carry out measures to solve this problem step by step. It will invite diplomats in Thailand to inspect the real situation in order to get the facts of the incident. The Foreign Ministry has been coordinating with the military at all times.

Asked by reporters whether Vietnam was behind the Lao incursion of Thai territory, the foreign minister said that although we do not want to mention it, we cannot help wondering why the current incident broke out at this time, especially when this year's efforts to seek a solution to the Cambodian conflict are progressing well. From the political viewpoint, this incident could be seen as an

attempt to lead public opinion away from the fact that Vietnam is the troublemaker in the region and into thinking that Thailand is the aggressor, as well as shifting attention from Cambodia to Laos.

Asked by reporters whether the current border incident necessitates the closure of the Thai-Lao border in other areas, the foreign minister said that so far, it did not warrant that.

Calls for Driving Out Laotians

BK240102 Bangkok THE NATION in English
24 Jan 88 pp 1, 2

[By Somphong Kittinaradon]

[Text] Thailand will not consider a peace dialogue with Laos until the military has driven out all Laotian intruders from the disputed terrain in Phitsanulok Province, Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila said yesterday.

Sitthi was commenting on a proposal that the two countries agree to a ceasefire and send a joint technical team to a 75-square-km area near Romklao Village in Chat Trakan District, the scene of a continuing battle between Thai and Laotian troops, to verify their claims on the disputed territory.

"We cannot withdraw troops from our own land," he told THE NATION in an exclusive interview.

Sitthi said all related government agencies have confirmed that the disputed terrain is inside Thailand.

The military, Foreign Ministry, the National Security Council and related intelligence bodies are now unanimous that Laotian troops must be flushed out before negotiations can start.

Sitthi said Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon's trip Friday to Chat Trakan District's Na Charoen Village, about six kms from Hill 1428, occupied by Laotian troops, was designed to demonstrate the unity among various government units in resolving the issue with Laos.

The Lao side, he said, has tried to divide the Thai government on the issue.

"We want to show them that such tactics won't work. There is no difference of opinion on this issue. Gen Chawalit and I understand each other well and I support all what he has said and done," he said.

During the border visit the premier was accompanied by Supreme Commander Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Sitthi, Interior Minister Gen Pyachua Suntharangkun, Defence Minister ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Phaniang Kantarat and PM's [Prime Minister's] Secretary General Sqn Ldr Prasong Sunsiri.

Prem and Chawalit then declared that Laotian troops must be driven out before the negotiations can start.

Sitthi ruled out any peace offer to Vientiane in the near future and said the 1907 Siam-Franco Protocol clearly showed that the disputed area is inside Thailand. Laos for all its "provocative acts" will not go unpunished, he added.

The "provocations", he said, include abduction of Thai villagers, slaying of two of the captives, and an armed attack on a Thai military outpost at the Romklao Village before the beef-up of Thai troops there.

"For all the things they have done to us, how can we throw in the towel by proposing a ceasefire" Sitthi said.

He added: "Somebody wants to see peace, but peace at any cost is unacceptable. There must also be justice and national pride."

Sitthi said Laos intends to draw the attention of the international community to the border dispute the same way it kicked off an uproar over the three border villages between Uttaradit Province and Laos' Sayaboury Province, a few years ago. Both sides claimed ownership over the area.

"The three border villages are not an issue any longer, but Laos has continued to play on the theme, even though we have pulled out troops from the area. It's just a tiny plot and we think it's not worthwhile to quarrel over, but they still say that our troops are 100-300 metres into their soil," he said.

He said Thailand had proposed that the two sides form a joint technical team to survey the disputed area. At first they rejected it, then they agreed to it but at the last meeting again changed their mind, Sitthi said.

He said he was surprised when the Laotians kicked off another uproar about; the new dispute.

"You know, even on Dec 3, when we met at the Foreign Ministry, we were toying with the idea of sending a trade mission to Laos to improve bilateral ties and pave the way for a final settlement of the border dispute,... but then all these hostile acts...." he said.

Summarizing the series of Thai diplomatic overtures before Bangkok decided to toughen its stand, Sitthi said at PM's Office Minister Arun Phanuphong's initiative, the Foreign Ministry proposed that the two sides first set an agenda, the venue, the composition of the two delegations, and the conduct of holding a joint press conference before formal negotiations start.

An agenda is necessary to ensure that the negotiations will not be turned into a venue for propaganda, he said.

"Then, we proposed that the venue should be a third country, but they rejected it. Afterward, we came up with a proposal that the talks start in Vientiane and continue in Ubon Ratchathani. We then insisted on setting an agenda. At this point, they replied that Thai troops must first withdraw from the area before negotiations can start," he said.

Sitthi also charged Laotian Ambassador Kamphan Simmalavong with filing "distorted reports" and planting hatred between Vientiane and the Thai Foreign Ministry, particularly himself.

He said he also suspected that the Laotian Embassy in Bangkok was behind the drafting of leaflets distributed on the Thai-Lao border. The leaflets singled out the foreign minister as the target for the psychological campaign against Laos, Sitthi said. [sentence as published]

He added that Kamphan wanted to discredit the Foreign Ministry by approaching Gen Chawalit.

"It's the duty of an ambassador to promote good relations between his country and the host country. But the Laotian ambassador lacks the diplomatic etiquette and acts against the diplomatic code of conduct. Even the Vietnamese ambassador (Le Mai) knows the code despite the political problems between our two countries," he said.

Chawalit Threatens 'Drastic Measures'

BK230131 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
23 Jan 88 pp 1, 3

[Excerpts] Laos will face drastic action if it persists in its uncompromising stand in the border dispute, Army Commander Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut said yesterday

Thailand's patience had been tested in the conflict for a jungle strip in Phitsanulok claimed by Laos, said Gen Chawalit, who was in Ban Na Qharoen, the scene of heavy fighting between Thai troops and Pathet Lao forces.

"But patience has its limits. We will not tolerate this for long," said Gen Chawalit, who was accompanying Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon to the Loei province village near Ban Romklao in Chat Trakan district of Phitsanulok. [passage omitted]

Gen Chawalit declared:

"If Laos refuses to listen to explanations or behave reasonably about the evidence shown to it, we shall have to resort to drastic measures, even though we don't want to go that far."

The army chief said Wednesday's Pathet Lao ambush, which left a number of engineers and rangers dead was an "ugly incident and another attempt by Laos to escalate the situation."

Foreign Minister Sitthi said Vietnam was engineering the border conflict to divert international attention from Kampuchea.

Laos had kept up a constant propaganda barrage accusing ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi of refusing to negotiate the issue.

"But," the Foreign Minister added, "if they wanted talks, they would not act like this".

Vientiane had never shown sincerity in seeking talks but persisted only with psychological and military operations, said ACM Sitthi.

Gen Prem's visit came two days after Pathet Lao troops ambushed army engineers and rangers aboard a GMC truck near Hill 1428.

Four engineers, who had been clearing mines, and three rangers were killed and ten wounded in the four-hour attack in which one Pathet Lao soldier died.

Army secretary Maj-Gen Narudon Detpradiyut said that between December 16 and January 19, Thai soldiers around Ban Romklao clashed with Laotian troops on 14 occasions and detonated two landmines.

Thai positions had been shelled 10 times and a spotter plane come under fire. [passage omitted]

Spokesmen Present Differing Views on Border

BK230205 Bangkok THE NATION in English
23 Jan 88 pp 1, 2

[Text] Thailand and Laos yesterday traded accusations in connection with the protracted territorial dispute over the Thai-Lao border near Phitsanulok.

Spokesmen of both sides also showed different maps to define the borderlines between the two countries to back up their charges.

Sarot Chawanawirat, the Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman, claimed Laos is using "an invalid" map to claim a 75-square-kilometre tract of land near Romklao Village in chat Trakan District.

The Laotian Embassy in Bangkok yesterday called a press conference to present two maps—one showing that the area is in Laos and the other, which they claimed has been modified by Thailand and the United States.

Sarot said the Thai L708 map, made in 1967 and cited by the Laotians to support their claim, was wrongly produced and was later declared invalid by the Thai Government.

Bangkok had also informed Vientiane of the move, he stressed, adding the map was later corrected in 1971. Thailand also sent the new map to Vientiane, he said.

Sarot said the Laotian Government also has maps, defining the correct borderline and showing the remote mountainous terrain of Phu Soi Dao is in Thai territory.

"But they have never shown the correct ones, including Vientiane's official map, jointly made by the Soviet Union and Laos in 1987," added the Thai spokesman.

"They select only the wrong map to back their false claim," said the Thai spokesman.

According to the Siam-Franco 1907 Treaty, the Thai-Lao border near Thailand's Phitsanulok and Loei provinces are demarcated by the two rivers of Huang and Huang Nga, he said.

Sarot accused the Vientiane spokesman of distorting the wording in the treaty to support Laos' claim by saying a small seasonal stream leading to Phu Soi Dao is the borderline.

He said the treaty does not mention the name of Phu Soi Dao, but says that Huang Nga, another branch of the main Huang River that leads to Khao Miang Mountain, is the demarcation line.

Sarot and a representative of the Royal Thai Armed Forces Survey Department showed reporters four different maps defining the border between Phitsanulok and Laos' Sayaboury Province.

Apart from the map declared invalid by Bangkok, one is attached to the Siam-Franco 1904-1907 Treaty, while the two others were made by the Soviet Union and the Thai department.

Sarot also stressed that the area, over which Thai and Laotian forces have been battling for control for more than two months, is in Thailand.

He charged the Laotian media with instigating Laotian people against Thailand, and said Bangkok still maintains "brotherly relations" with Laos.

The Thai and Laotian spokesmen affirmed that the two neighbouring countries will not withdraw their troops from the disputed area.

Vang Lattanavong, a Lao Embassy spokesman, called on Thailand to cease military actions and accused Bangkok of escalating the border conflict.

He said the Thai Third Army Region yesterday sent two more battalions and helicopters armed with rockets to fight Laotian troops.

The Laotian official claimed that Thai forces planned to resume a major offensive against "Lao positions in Lao territory last night."

He said Thailand last month renewed a military operation, codenamed "Soi Dao 02," against the Laotian troops in the disputed area.

Vang said Thai 105- and 155-mm artillery pieces rained more than 3,000 shells over the area during Jan 7-11, and called for a ceasefire to pave the way for peace talks.

However, the Thai officials said Thai forces will continue to push the Laotian intruders from Thai territory. About 150-200 Laotian troops are still entrenched in the area, known as Hill 1428, on Phu Soi Dao mountain.

The Laotian spokesman also dismissed Thai reports on Laos' military build-up along the border opposite Thailand's Loei Province and Vietnamese troops' involvement in the border battle.

He said Laos is willing to hold talks with Thailand "at any level," but stressed that the dialogue must be held without pre-conditions.

Vang said the Lao government turned down a Thai proposal to hold talks in either Vientiane or the Thai northeastern province of Udon Thani and demanded an open agenda.

Laos Envoy Gives News Conference in Bangkok
BK251134 Vientiane KPL in English
0900 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Vientiane, January 25 (KPL)—"Aggressive acts of hostility perpetrated by Thai Army in Lao Na Bonoi village, Boten District, northwestern province of Sayaboury, are flagrant violation of the Lao sovereignty and territorial integrity. Such deeds can only serve the interests of some individuals in Thai ruling circles. They are military strategy aiming at attacking and annexing the Lao territory," said Mr. Vang Lattanavong, counsellor of the Lao ambassador in Bangkok on January 22 at a press conference held at the embassy there.

He described Thai attacks against the Lao positions in the said locality as "the most serious ones." He disclosed that in Thai military operation not only machine guns but heavy artillery, F-5 jet fighters, helicopters armed with missiles, and even chemical weapons are being deployed." [quotation marks as received]

Vang Lattanavong, backed his verbal explanation of Thai violation the Lao territory in Lao Boten District to foreign correspondents using the map as agreed by France and Siam in 1907 and subsequent ones made by the Thai Army Map Service and US Corps of Engineers all of which support the Lao claim over the disputed area.

Following questions' time, the counsellor reaffirmed the Lao side's good will and stance in wanting to solve the problem by means of peace on the basis of unconditional, equal footing so as to restore the time honoured friendly relations of good neighbourliness with Thai people.

The press conference was attended by more than 50 foreign correspondents including REUTER, AFP, UPI, and AP.

Army Spokesman Denies Vientiane Radio Report
BK241421 Hong Kong AFP in English 1235 GMT
24 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Bangkok, Jan 24 (AFP)—Thai troops suffered heavy losses in border clashes Saturday with Laotian forces, Laos state radio said Sunday, but a senior Thai army officer categorically denied the report. [passage omitted]

Thai Army Spokesman Major General Narudon Detpradiyut told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE the report was "completely false."

"Our troops have not gone anywhere. All our soldiers are still in their original position," Maj Gen Narudon said in a telephone interview.

He said the Thai side had lost fewer than 50 men in border fighting since December. He would not comment on Laotian casualties. [passage omitted]

Two Lao Patrols 'Expelled' From Na Hao
BK240424 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
24 Jan 88 p 3

[Excerpts] Loei—Two Laotian patrol units were driven out yesterday morning [23 January] after a 20-minute clash with Thai troops near Hill 1146 in Thai territory at Na Hao district, according to military reports.

The report said the clash occurred when two Pathet Lao patrols were spotted near the hill about two kilometres inside Thai territory by troops of the 13th Cavalry Battalion, who expelled the intruders after a 20-minute skirmish.

The Thai soldiers suffered no injuries, while the intruders' condition was not known.

The report said that on Friday evening [22 January] Laotian gunners fire two rounds of 130-mm shells and about 15 mortar rounds into the area of Huai Nam Takhao, the border area in Na Hao district.

The attack came six hours after Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon and Army Chief General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, along with other high-ranking officials, made an inspection tour of Ban Na Charoen in Na Hao district.

The report said two Soviet-made helicopters landed yesterday morning at a Laotian field command post coordinating fighting at Huai Namphiang in Sayaboury province, about 18 kilometres from the Thai border.

Three Laotian generals—Brig-Gen Boun-gnang Volachit, Maj-Gen Chounlamani Sai-gnason and Maj-Gen Khampha Chaleunphonvisai—were among the passengers, as well as reporters from Hungary, Poland, Vietnam, Laos and the Soviet Union who are covering the border clashes, the report said.

Earlier, a US-made Q-123 transport plane landed at Bosan airfield in Boten district with 45 soldiers from Muang Nan Camp in Luang Prabang to reinforce Laotian forces at the border.

Thai ambassador to Vientiane, Niran Phanuphong, was briefed yesterday on the latest developments in the border conflict at a military command in Phitsanulok, Radio Thailand reported. [passage omitted]

Commenting on anti-Thai demonstrations in Laos, the ambassador said he suspected the wide-spread demonstrations were intended to fuel hatred among Laotians.

However, he said Thailand would still open its border for trade between Thai and Laotian merchants.

Meanwhile, it was reported that Gen Prem has instructed the Highways Department to cut a 15-km road linking Ban Bo Pak with Ban Romklao in Chat Trakan district of Phitsanulok.

Road communication from Chat Trakan to Ban Romklao is at present inconvenient because of the rugged terrain which makes it necessary for motorists to make a long detour through Na Hao district of Loei in order to reach the village.

Airspace Violated by Afghan Airliner
BK230553 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
23 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] The Civil Aviation Department has been told to protest to Kabul about an Afghanistan airliner which strayed off-course into Thai air space on December 31.

Air Force spokesman AVM [Air Vice Marshal] Sommot Suntharawet said yesterday the Soviet-made TU-154 passenger plane flew over Ubon Ratchathani at 11:20 a.m. and two planes were sent to intercept it and force it out of Thai air space.

More aircraft were detected in November and December last year while about to enter Thai air space over the Trat-Chanthaburi area but were intercepted by Air Force planes, said AVM Sommot.

Further on Air Violations

BK240040 Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
24 Jan 88 p 3

[Text] The [Royal Thai] Air Force [RTAF] reported more than 700 violations of Thai airspace in a recent period of 35 days, and four of them posed a threat to national security, a senior air force officer said.

Air Force Secretary Sommot Suntharawet said yesterday [23 January] that air force radar stations detected 745 unauthorized entries during Dec 17-Jan 21. In the four dangerous incidents, air force planes were sent to escort them out of Thai airspace, he said.

"Most of the violations involved Soviet-made AN-30 transport planes, which were detected over the Thai-Kampuchean border," AVM Sommot said.

Foreign Minister Sitthi on Cambodian Talks

BK240122 Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
24 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila said yesterday he has not seen any real sign of Hanoi's readiness to accept a political solution to the nine-year-old Kampuchean conflict.

Reviewing the latest developments, ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi also said pro-Hanoi Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen's position on Kampuchea remained tough during the second round of talks with Khmer resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk in France on Jan 20-21.

He told *THE NATION* Hun Sen also played "delaying tactics" by refusing to accept the prince's two key demands: a definite timetable for an early total withdrawal of Vietnamese troops, and an agreement to adopt a new framework for a new unified Kampuchean administration.

Hun Sen pledged that Vietnam will complete the total military pull-out in 30 months, or 24 months after an agreement is reached to end fighting between rival Khmer forces. But he tied the move to a demand to disarm the Khmer Rouge, the main combat force of the three-party Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK), headed by Sihanouk.

"Hun Sen wants a protracted negotiation to delay the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops or to extract concessions from Prince Sihanouk in the course of the peace talks," Sitthi said.

He added: "Hun Sen always flew to Moscow and Hanoi before attending a Paris meeting and some teachers may have told him how to talk with the prince."

Sitthi did not comment on the suggestion of Prince Norodom Rannarit, Sihanouk's son and personal spokesman, that his father may remove the Khmer

Rouge from an agreement to form a Khmer national reconciliation government. Rannarit made the suggestion at the end of the Paris talks.

He said Sihanouk appeared disappointed with the outcome of the peace talk, which was cut short from three to two days.

Sounding disappointed with Moscow, Sitthi said the Soviet Union apparently did not help pressure Vietnam into giving concessions as top Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev indicated to U.S. President Ronald Reagan in their latest Washington summit. He did not elaborate.

But Sitthi said Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon's plan to visit Moscow this year still stands.

The minister said Bangkok will stay put now and monitor and reappraise the situation from time to time.

"We will stick to our position despite all the confusion resulting from Hanoi's manoeuvring if Vietnam remains adamant. Otherwise, we are prepared to come up with something new. We are not as rigid as some critics think," he said.

Sitthi said Thailand has let Sihanouk and Indonesia, assigned as ASEAN's agent for dealing with Hanoi, to assume diplomatic roles on the stage.

Indonesia's Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja will meet Sitthi when he stops here early next month.

He said he will exchange views with Mokhtar on the outcome of the Paris meeting and other Kampuchean developments.

Sitthi said that Vietnam has been trying all possible means to break the international isolation against it because the country is in great economic trouble.

"They have enacted a new investment code to lure foreign capital from the West, paint a picture that China is getting on friendly terms with Vietnam, used some interest groups here to build up pressure on the Thai government on our policy of maintaining economic pressure on Vietnam, so on and so forth," he said.

The minister also said he was checking into a Japanese newspaper report that China and Vietnam just agreed on a ceasefire on their border.

But he said he questioned the report because Beijing had pledged with him that China ~~will~~ ~~not~~ ~~normalize~~ ties with Vietnam until after the latter agree to withdraw troops from Kampuchea.

"Vietnam has been spreading rumours that it has accommodated with China. In fact, the Vietnamese have unsuccessfully tried to hold secret talks with China many times," he said.

He asserted there was evidence showing the Vietnamese tampering with some interest groups. He refused to elaborate.

Despite this, Sitthi said Thailand's allies have not relaxed the policy of isolating Vietnam economically.

"There may appear confusion about the matter, but I can assure you that our friends, including the European community, the United States and Japan, have closely consulted with us and they support Thailand because they are sympathetic with our position as the front-line state," he added.

Spokesman Praises Sihanouk

*BK230253 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
23 Jan 88 p 6*

[Text] Thailand praised Khmer resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk yesterday for being able to urge Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen to agree to a Vietnamese troop withdrawal before 1990.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sarot Chawanawirat said Thailand agrees with Prince Sihanouk's move to raise the issue of troop withdrawals.

He praised the prince for being able to urge the Heng Samrin regime to agree that Vietnamese troops would leave within two years.

If this did not occur, he said, then there would not have been anything new resulting from the talks.

Another senior Foreign Ministry source said the question of troop withdrawal raised by Hun Sen is not a question of quid pro quo. The withdrawal is a major obstacle and is an issue which should not be negotiated since it is Vietnam that invaded Kampuchea.

Vietnam

2-Day Meeting With U.S. MIA's Specialists

*BK251626 Hanoi VNA in English 1614 GMT
25 Jan 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 25—According to an agreement between the Vietnamese and U.S. Governments, the two groups of Vietnamese and U.S. specialists on Americans missing in action [MIA's] in the Vietnam war met on Jan. 23-24.

This was the 3rd such meeting since the visit to Vietnam by the U.S. President's special envoy, General John Vessey, in August 1987.

The Vietnamese side affirmed Vietnamese humanitarian policy in the settlement of the issue of Americans missing in action, and at the same time, stressed the necessity

for the two sides to implement what had been agreed upon. The Vietnamese side provided the U.S. side with preliminary information on 23 cases of American MIA's.

The U.S. side highly valued the good will, the humanitarian policy and the cooperative spirit of the Vietnamese side and of the view that the meetings had reached good results.

The U.S. specialists left here today.

Government Rejects PRC Charge of Border Attacks

*BK251208 Hong Kong AFP in English 1154 GMT
25 Jan 88*

[Text] Hanoi, Jan 25 (AFP)—Vietnam on Monday rejected accusations by China that its troops have bombarded Chinese territory with artillery shells since New Year's day.

"These reports are groundless," an official source said.

The NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY said Sunday that Vietnamese troops fired some 2,000 shells into the Laoshan area in China's southwestern Yunnan Province since January 1.

The Vietnamese source meanwhile confirmed that China's ambassador to Hanoi, Li Shichun, had invited Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach to dinner in Hanoi in mid-December.

China's Embassy in Hanoi has had "regular contacts" with the Vietnamese Government, as Vietnam's Embassy in Beijing has had with China, the source added.

Spokesman Denies Agreement Report

*BK251619 Hanoi VNA in English 1558 GMT
25 Jan 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 25—A spokesman of the Vietnamese Ministry for Foreign Affairs today granted an interview to VNA's correspondent.

Asked about a news report by the Japanese newspaper YOMIURI SHIMBUN on January 20, 1988 saying that Nguyen Co Thach, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister, had talks with the Chinese ambassador at a cordial dinner at the Chinese Embassy in Hanoi, in which the two sides reached a five-point agreement, the spokesman said: "Regular contacts have been maintained between the foreign ministries and the embassies of the two countries. Invitations to dinners extended by the Chinese ambassador in Hanoi or by the Vietnamese ambassador in Beijing to senior officials of the Foreign Ministry in their respective countries are a normal diplomatic activity. We have no ground to confirm what the newspaper 'YOMIURI SHIMBUN' called a 'five-point agreement'."

In reply to reports by the Chinese side alleging that since late last year Vietnam has continued attacks and intrusions into the Chinese border area, the spokesman said: "Those reports made by the Chinese side are groundless".

Rescued Chinese Fishermen Leave for Home
BK211538 Hanoi VNA in English 1531 GMT
21 Jan 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 21—The authorities and people of the central province of Nghe Tinh have saved eight Chinese fishermen whose boat was damaged by storm and drifted to the sea off the province in late last November.

The local authorities and people also helped the storm victims repair their boat and supplied them with fuel and food so that they could return to their country.

Leaving the Nghe Tinh sea yesterday, all the Chinese fishermen expressed their profound gratitude to the Vietnamese government and people for their humane treatment which demonstrated their respect for the traditional friendship between the peoples of Vietnam and China.

Soviet Delegation Arrives 24 January
BK241602 Hanoi VNA in English 1521 GMT
24 Jan 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 24—A delegation of Soviet Government led by V. K. Gusev, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and president of the Soviet section of the USSR-Vietnam Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation arrived in Ho Chi Minh City today.

The delegation will attend the 13th session of the said commission and the inauguration of the first turbine generator of the hydro-electric power plant built with Soviet assistance northeast of Ho Chi Minh City.

The Soviet delegation also includes the minister of electric power development and electrification, senior officials of the State Commission for Foreign Economic Relations, and the Foreign Trade Ministry and the Ministries of Light Industry, Oil Refining and Petrochemical Industry, and Shipbuilding and Soviet ambassador to Vietnam, D.I. Kachin.

The Soviet guests were welcomed at the Tan Son Nhat Airport by Nguyen Co Thach, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister for foreign affairs and others.

Pham Hung Meets With GDR Deputy Premier
BK151636 Hanoi VNA in English 1500 GMT
15 Jan 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 15—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Hung received in Ho Chi Minh City this afternoon a government economic delegation of the German Democratic Republic led by Horst Soelle, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, which is there for the 14th session of the Vietnam-GDR Committee on Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

Chairman Pham Hung highly valued the result of the comprehensive cooperation, especially in the economic, scientific and technological fields, between the two countries in recent years. He expressed his pleasure over the new development of their cooperation as shown in the result of the 14th session.

The Vietnamese chairman thanked the GDR for its great assistance to the Vietnamese people's national construction and defence, and wished the GDR people new, yet greater successes in their building a prosperous country.

For his part, Vice Chairman Horst Soelle praised Vietnam's contributions to the struggle for peace, stability and cooperation in the region, and affirmed the increasing development of cooperation between the two countries.

Also present at the reception were Vietnamese Vice Chairman of the Council of Minister Dong Si Nguyen and GDR Ambassador Joachim Loeschner.

Pham Hung Receives CEMA Trade Ministers
BK240214 Hanoi VNA in English 1501 GMT
23 Jan 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 23—Pham Hung, Political Bureau member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received in Ho Chi Minh City today delegates to the 20th session of the home trade ministers of the member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

Chairman Pham Hung highly valued the results of the session just ended in Hanoi, which, he said, helped promote the multisided cooperation among the CEMA member countries. He said he hoped that the fraternal socialist countries would strengthen their cooperation with Vietnam and help it in building the material and technical foundation for socialism and training personnel.

The Vietnamese leader assured his guests that with cooperation and assistance from the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, Vietnam's socio-economic situation will be gradually stable by the year 1990.

NHAN DAN Condemns U.S.-Thai Agreement
BK250930 Hanoi VNA in English 0716 GMT
25 Jan 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 25—The newly signed agreement between Washington and Bangkok allowing the United States to build a big weapons storage in northern Thailand is running counter to the common trend in the region, says NHAN DAN in a commentary today.

The paper continues:

"For the United States, this is a premeditated act within the Pentagon's new global strategy" in Southeast Asia, a region which holds a strategic position in many fields for the United States.

"It is not accidental that in its military aid program for the ASEAN countries, the United States has given special priority to Thailand. From 1979 to 1985, US military aid to this country jumped from 37.40 million to 102.3 million dollars, a three-fold increase.

"The building of an arms storage in Thailand is precisely aimed at gradually legalizing the future presence of US troops there once a request by an ally" is made.

"For Thailand," NHAN DAN goes on, the public at home and at large is well aware of Thailand's collusion with the US and other reactionary forces in sabotaging the revolution in the three Indochinese countries.

"More seriously still over the past month, the Thai ultra-rightists have launched many military attacks on Boten area of the Lao Province of Sayaboury, causing many losses in lives and materials to the local population. In particular, last week they even fired toxic chemical shells on that area of Laos."

The paper points out:

"The US-Thai military collusion clearly runs counter to the common trend of the people in the region who want the renunciation of violence and confrontation and the beginning of dialogue in order to build Southeast Asia into a region of peace, friendship, and mutually beneficial cooperation.

The Thai people understand only too well that their country's peace and security don't depend on the presence of the US weapons storage. Why does Thailand court disaster for itself? The Thai people's interests lie in coexistence in friendship and cooperation with the neighboring countries. Turning their back to that reality and deliberately retreading the old path, the ultra-rightists in the Thai ruling circles will only invite ignominious failure." [quotation marks as received]

Commentary Hails Hun Sen-Sihanouk Meeting
BK231550 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1430 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Station Commentary: "Another Step of the National Concord Spirit"]

[Text] The second Hun Sen-Sihanouk meeting that recently took place in Paris, has responded to the expectation and aspirations of the Cambodian people and broad segments of world public opinion.

On the basis of the four-point joint communique of 4 December 1987, at this meeting both sides exchanged views on the various political, military, and international issues regarding a solution to the Cambodian problem. Both sides have asserted their views on the independence, neutrality, and nonalignment of Cambodia; on the future administration of Cambodia to be decided upon by the Cambodian people, and on the guarantee of international supervision and control over the agreements achieved.

Both sides have presented their respective stand concerning the timetable for the withdrawal of Vietnamese Army volunteers from Cambodia, the disbandment of the Pol Pot clique's armed forces, the termination of outside intervention in Cambodia, and the establishment of a multisided coalition government in Cambodia.

Both sides agreed to continue the exchange of views on these issues and meet for a third time in Pyongyang in April 1988, a fourth time in Paris by the end of this year, and a fifth time in New Delhi.

Following the four-point joint communique of 4 December 1987, the results obtained in this meeting between Chairman Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk reflect the goodwill and effort of both sides to promote the process of resolving the Cambodian problem politically through negotiation between the Cambodian sides, responding to the aspirations of the Cambodian people of all strata both at home and abroad. This is a correct and realistic path suitable to the developing situation in the PRK and to the general trend in the region and the world.

We all see very clearly that in today's international arena, the elimination of conflicts in the various regions as well as in each country depends on the decisive role of the policy of national concord. The implementation of this policy paves the way for putting an end to meaningless internecine wars, eliminating contradictions among differing forces and political groups, and resolving the pressing problems of nations. The development of the Cambodian situation conforms with this trend. It should be stressed that to build a peaceful, independent, sovereign, democratic, neutral, and nonaligned Cambodia as pointed out in the four-point joint communique on 4 December 1987, it is imperative to eliminate the Pol Pot ringleaders and disband their armed forces. Only in this

way can we put an end to the danger of reinstating the genocidal regime that has caused a horrible tragedy to the Cambodian people and threatened peace and stability in Indochina and Southeast Asia. And, naturally, as pointed out by Chairman Hun Sen at a press conference in France on the afternoon of 21 January, to eliminate the Pol Pot forces, it is necessary to adopt the combined measures of all those who are afraid of the Pol Pot clique and to gather the force of the people with the hatred of the international community for this clique's crimes.

The people and government of the SRV fully support the just stand of the PRK. Together with worldwide public opinion, we welcome the effort to continue the meetings between the PRK and Prince Sihanouk. The results obtained recently are only initial ones. The struggle to settle the Cambodian issue still has to undergo many difficulties and complexities because there still remain forces that seek to swim against the current of our age.

However, with the efforts and goodwill of the PRK and Prince Sihanouk who have won the sympathy and support of worldwide public opinion, the subsequent meetings between Chairman Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk will certainly be able to overcome all obstacles and advance further on the path of promoting the process of resolving the Cambodian issue, thus bringing about peace for this suffering country and contributing to the common effort to make Southeast Asia a zone of peace and stability.

Paper Welcomes 'New Steps'

*BK240720 Hanoi VNA in English 0718 GMT
24 Jan 88*

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 24—"Once again, the world public has seen the flexible and good will attitude of the People's Republic of Kampuchea", says NHAN DAN in a commentary today on the newly-concluded second round of the Kampuchea talks between Chairman Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Paris.

The paper goes on:

"The talks demonstrate a new step of the trend toward dialogue aimed at peacefully resolving the Kampuchea issue and the Southeast Asian issue as a whole. The initial results of the talks have testified to both sides' determination to achieve national reconciliation, stop the blood-shed and move toward the realisation of an independent, neutral, progressive and prosperous Kampuchea, thus contributing to peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world, it proves that the only correct and practical way of solving the Kampuchea issue is to continue the dialogue in the quest for a fair political solution conformable to the common trend in the region and the world. It also proves that the Kampuchea issue must be resolved by the Kampucheans themselves".

"At the talks, Chairman Hun Sen suggested a concrete time-table for the Vietnamese Army volunteers' withdrawal from Kampuchea concomitant with the dismantlement of the armed forces of the Pol Pot clique and the cessation of foreign interference in Kampuchea. He also made concrete proposals for the establishment of a coalition government through general election with the participation of all political parties and under international supervision. These are sound proposals based on the policy of national reconciliation and the five-point stance of the People's Republic of Kampuchea for a political solution to the Kampuchea issue which has already won high appreciation from broad sections of public opinion. Realities show that in order to build a peaceful, independent, sovereign democratic, neutral and non-aligned Kampuchea as is anticipated in the four-point Hun Sen-Sihanouk joint communique on Dec. 4, 1987, it is necessary to discard the Pol Pot chieftains and dismantle their armed forces so as to eliminate once and for all the danger of restoration of the genocidal regime which had caused so much suffering and death to the Kampuchean people and threatened peace and stability in the region.

NHAN DAN says in conclusion:

"Vietnam is firmly convinced that with the efforts and good will of both sides and the world's approval and support, the coming talks between the People's Republic of Kampuchea and Prince Norodom Sihanouk will bring even more heartening results, thus contributing to resolving the Kampuchea issue in the interest of durable peace on that martyred country and of peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world".

Daily Calls for an End to Israeli Expulsions

*BK161135 Hanoi VNA in English 0808 GMT
16 Jan 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 16—The national paper NHAN DAN in a commentary today urges Israel to immediately end all its criminal acts against the Palestinian people, including the expulsion of them from their homeland. The paper points out that the recent expulsion of four Palestinians from West Bank Jordan is a serious violation of the 1949 Geneva Convention as well as the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights. It says:

"Heedless of morality and public protest, Tel Aviv is perpetrating more and more crimes against the Palestinian people and carrying on its policy of aggression and annexation against other countries at variance with international laws and the most elementary principles morality, thus straining the situation in the Palestinian refugees' camps."

Recalling that the U.S. representative abstained from voting for the U.N. resolution condemning Israel's deportation of Palestinians, NHAN DAN says that this negative attitude on the part of Washington has bred Tel Aviv's prolonged arrogance.

"The expulsion of Palestinians from their homeland is unacceptable in view of morality and international laws. This is Tel Aviv's plot aimed at undermining the resistance bases and weakening the resistance forces of the Palestinian people," the paper says.

"The Zionists can never achieve their sinister desire by increasing the cruelty of their crimes. Their inhumane manoeuvres will only make the Palestinian people close their ranks and continue to fight to finish for their fundamental national rights. And in this struggle the Palestinian people are receiving added strength from the firm support of the progressive mankind," NHAN DAN concludes.

Briefs

Delegation Visits Damascus

A delegation of the Vietnam AAPSO [Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization] Committee led by Mrs Nguyen Thi Binh, Vice President of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization and Presidium member

of the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity and Friendship With Other Peoples, visited Syria from January 16-23 at the invitation of its Syrian counterpart. In Damascus, the Vietnamese delegation held talks with Syria's AAPSO delegation at the end of which a joint communique was issued praising the friendly relations between the two countries, and affirming the two sides' full support for the just struggle of Asian, African, and Latin American nations against imperialism, Zionism and racism, for peace and freedom on earth. The Vietnamese delegation praised and expressed their firm solidarity with the struggle of the peoples of Syria and other Arab countries against the Zionist Israeli clique for liberating the occupied territories and realizing the right to self-determination of the Arab-Palestinian people. The Syrian side praised the Vietnamese people's struggle against foreign invasion, citing it as a shining example for the nations who are struggling for independence and freedom, and affirmed its full support for the constructive efforts of Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea aimed at peacefully solving the remaining issues in Southeast Asia. [Summary] [Hanoi VNA in English 1454 GMT 23 Jan 88 BK]

Australia

Hawke Advised To Meet With Torres Islanders

BK240550 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0500 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] An Australian Government minister who has been discussing independence claims with inhabitants of the Torres Strait Islands says the Australian prime minister, Mr Hawke, should go there. The minister for aboriginal affairs, Mr Gerry Hand, said he would recommend to Mr Hawke that he go to Thursday Island to hear the islanders' case for independence from Australia.

The islands between the Australian mainland and Papua New Guinea were annexed by Australia in 1879 and are a part of the state of Queensland.

A spokesman for the independence movement, Mr (Chippano Luie), said today that Mr Hawke would have to agree to the islanders' demands. He said the islanders were determined in their bid to secede and had set up a working party to lobby within Australia and the Pacific region for support.

Earlier, Mr (Luie) said the Torres Strait islanders rejected the legitimacy of the rule by the Australian and Queensland Governments and were entitled to control resources and tourism in that area.

The islanders have also said they will seek about \$3,500 million in compensation from Australia.

Mr Hand was leaving for Torres Strait today for meetings with aborigines in Australia's Northern Territory.

Fiji

Ganilau 'Ill'; Cancels All Engagements

BK250528 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0500 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Fiji's president, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, is ill and has canceled all his immediate engagements. A Government House spokesman in Suva said Ratu Sir Penaia had been told by his doctor to rest. No details were available on the nature of the president's illness.

Ratu Sir Penaia, the nation's former governor general, became the new republic's first president last month when the military leader, Brigadier Sitiveni Rabuka,

handed over power to civilian government. Among the engagements canceled was one to be guest of honor tomorrow at a party to mark Australia's bicentenary.

Papua New Guinea

No Support Offered for Torres Islanders

BK220622 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0500 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] The move by Torres Strait islanders for independence from Australia has received a major setback with Papua New Guinea saying it will not support the move for secession.

Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister Mr Paias Wingti has rejected any suggestion that his government sympathizes with the secession movement. Mr Wingti says Papua New Guinea regards the Torres Straits Islands as an integral part of Australia and the Torres Strait islanders as Australians.

Radio Australia's Port Moresby correspondent (Shaun Donny) says Mr Wingti today described the issue as an internal matter for the Australian Government to decide. He said Papua New Guinea did not see it as a very important problem. Mr Wingti said his government would not be holding talks with the secessionist leaders. (Shaun Donny) says the Torres Strait islanders had been hoping for support from the South Pacific Forum. But in view of Papua New Guinea's stated attitude, the support will not be forthcoming.

Australia's Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Mr Hand, is expected to fly to Thursday Island within the next few days to discuss the islanders' grievances. The Queensland state premier, Mr (O'Hearn), has also agreed to see a delegation from the islands.

Premier Welcomes Australia Recognition of Fiji

BK240812 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Papua New Guinea's prime minister, Mr Wingti, has welcomed Australia's decision to recognize Fiji. Speaking at a news conference in Port Moresby following a visit to Indonesia, Mr Wingti said Papua New Guinea had maintained from the beginning that Fiji was a country that should not be isolated.

He said his government had been very consistent on the issue, and he was glad that Australia had ultimately come to recognize Fiji.

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